



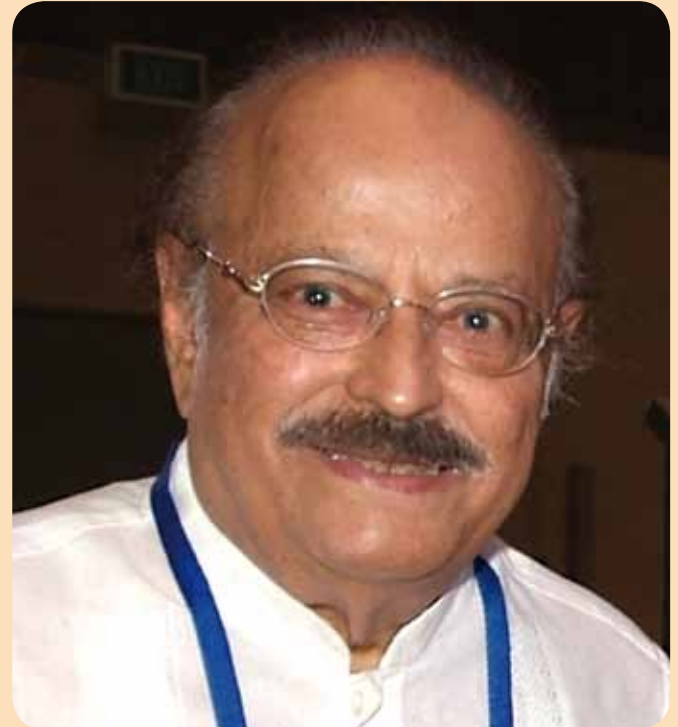
AFE-ADB News

No. 35 | September 2009

The Newsletter of the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank



Updates



M. Ikramullah Khan
1926–2009



Bali Annual General Meeting

People, Places,
and Passages



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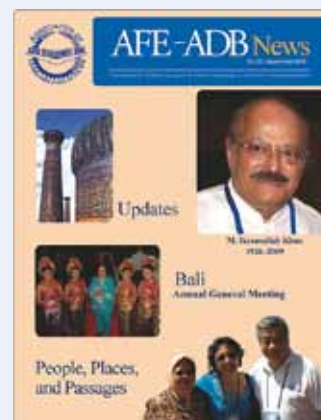
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OUR COVER



In memoriam: AFE-ADB Executive Secretary Emeritus M. Ikramullah Khan passed away on 30 July 2009.

Beyond Tashkent, along the ancient Silk Road.

Balinese dancers.

On tour in Bali.

AFE-ADB News

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M. Ikramullah Khan

1926–2009



It is with deep regret and sorrow that we note the death of AFE-ADB's founder and Executive Secretary Emeritus, M. Ikramullah Khan, on 30 July in London. He was 83.

Mr Khan left ADB's service as chief of the former Internal Audit Office on 15 October 1984, and is well remembered by AFE-ADB members as AFE's founder and executive secretary for 22 years. Mr Khan established AFE in 1986 following his retirement. As the first executive secretary, he steered AFE for 22 years, until 2008. During his tenure, AFE's membership grew from the initial 30 to exceed 2,200 former employees and their surviving spouses. Mr Khan worked tirelessly to continue and cement the links between former ADB staff members and ADB, and to work with ADB on behalf of the former members. As AFE's representative on ADB's Pension Committee, he worked assiduously for retirees' pension rights.

Among his many achievements as executive secretary, he

- assured AFE's good financial health,
- pioneered AFE's annual general meetings held in conjunction with ADB's annual meetings,
- arranged for incorporation of AFE,
- published a twice-yearly newsletter and a directory of members,
- arranged for IDs that allow pensioners entry to ADB,
- arranged for a pensioners' representative on ADB's Pension Committee, and
- established AFE chapters in several countries.

Personal notes of condolence may be sent to Mrs Mehbooba Ikramullah Khan at 19 St. Stephen's Close Avenue Road, London NW8 6DD, United Kingdom.

AFE–ADB Updates

From the Executive Secretary

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



Bali—the dream of vacationers the world over—was the location of the 2009 annual meetings of ADB and AFE. Many AFE members who attended spent a few more days to explore the wonderful sights and sounds of the island after the meetings closed.

The ADB meeting was a great success, as the Board of Governors approved ADB's three-fold capital increase. This comes after the successful conclusion of Asian Development Fund (ADF) X negotiations in March 2008. ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda is to be congratulated for having substantially enlarged ADB's capital base for lending to ADB's poorest member countries as well as the growing number of middle-income countries.

AFE's Country Coordinators' Meeting and Annual General Meeting went well. Ten country coordinators, representing 1,520 of AFE's 2,350 members, discussed with the AFE team of executive secretary, deputy, and treasurer a wide range of topics and contributed many useful suggestions to promote the well-being of AFE members and the effectiveness of our organization (pp. 10–14). Fewer AFE members (about 47) than in most previous years attended the annual general meeting, but a lively discussion developed following the address by AFE President Bong-Suh Lee, and reports by the executive and deputy executive secretaries and the treasurer (pp. 19–22). Five resolutions were passed covering pension and health insurance matters.

The day, into which we had to cram both our meetings because of scheduling problems, ended with a most pleasant cocktail reception in the Westin Resort Hotel's Portraits Restaurant. It was enjoyed

by a good number of people, 109 in all, from among AFE members plus ADB staff, management, and board of directors. ADB President Kuroda gave a brief address to the gathering (p. 9) and offered a toast.

After the Bali meeting I attended the Fujinokai gathering around former AFE President Fujioka in Tokyo on 25 May (p. 37). The World Bank's retiree organization, the 1818 Society, has finalized plans for a one-day meeting of the retiree organizations of all international financial institutions in mid-September 2009. A structured approach has been chosen for the meeting, with four subgroups focusing on governance, pensions, health insurance, and social aspects. Several of our Washington-based AFE members have agreed to join me to attend the meetings. I will report on the meetings in the next AFE–ADB News.

The ADB Pension Committee met on 20 July 2009 to discuss, among other matters, ADB's contribution rate to the Staff Retirement Plan for 2009. After a resolution was passed in AFE's annual general meeting in Bali that authorizes the duly elected executive secretary to represent pensioners in the Pension Committee, I participated in the meeting (p. 6), in which M. Ikramullah Khan represented pensioners' interests since 1993. Mr Khan deserves a thank-you for having brought pensioners' concerns to the Pension Committee for 16 long years.

I hope that many of you are already placing the dates of the next annual meetings of ADB and AFE in your calendars: 1–4 May 2010. Tashkent is an attractive meeting place, and the ancient cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva are exciting places to visit after the close of the meetings. I hope to see you there!



ADB's Capital Triples

Excerpts from President Kuroda's Address at ADB's 43rd Annual Meeting

On 7 April, ADB's President Kuroda informed the heads of ADB's departments, "Yesterday, the Board of Directors approved its report recommending a general capital increase (GCI) of 200%, and to submit that report and the GCI V resolution to the Board of Governors, for voting."

On 7 May, Philip Bowring, writing from Bali for the International Herald Tribune, commented, "There is nothing like a global crisis to give relevance to multilateral organizations. And nothing like China–Japan rivalry to breathe life—or at least money—into Asian regional cooperation."

"So the annual meeting here this week of the Asian Development Bank has been a window into what Asia can do to help itself, and how enhanced regional cooperation can help the global economy both grow and avoid protectionism and division into blocs...."

These two notes bracket the address President Kuroda gave on 3 May to the thousands present at ADB's annual meeting, discussing the global condition and how ADB intends to proceed by using ADB's resources, including the GCI. Excerpts of his speech are reproduced here.

Global Issues and the GCI. "As we meet today, two powerful and unfolding global issues threaten to set back our progress on poverty: the global economic crisis and the daunting challenge of climate change.

"No country remains untouched by these phenomena. We need to recognize that our destiny is a shared destiny. We must pull together to survive; we must work together to thrive.

"Despite the difficult global scenario, today marks a historic and momentous occasion for our region—and for our institution. The tripling of ADB's capital resource base, confirmed just days ago, is a resounding vote of confidence in this region's ability to overcome obstacles on the path to economic growth and poverty reduction. It will empower our strategies to address the development priorities of all borrowers....

"For ADB, this increase is nothing short of transformative. It challenges us to be bolder, more innovative, and more responsive in our mission to reduce poverty and improve the lives of the poor. On behalf of all of us, I offer sincere thanks to our shareholders, and my personal commitment that we will rise to the challenge.



"Responding to the Global Crisis. There is no doubt that the global downturn has hit Asian economies hard. Access to finance has tightened. And a sharp drop in export demand seriously affects the region's production networks.... As a result, growth in developing Asia and the Pacific is expected to plummet to 3.4% this year....

"Asian governments have moved quickly to shore up economies and protect their most vulnerable citizens.... ADB stands firmly behind these efforts. We have committed an additional \$10 billion to supplement our assistance over 2009 and 2010 to member countries in need of extra support....

"The poor and vulnerable must remain our utmost concern. Under our current projections, 60 million ... people in the region will remain trapped in poverty this year, and yet another 100 million next year [who except for the global crisis] would have broken through the \$1.25-a-day poverty line and begun to experience a better quality of life.

"In low-income countries we will increase our assistance to \$3.4 billion this year by front-loading available Asian Development Fund (ADF) resources.... And we have initiated the Pacific crisis support program to provide integrated and comprehensive crisis assistance to small and fragile Pacific island economies.

"With strong national and regional efforts, and a mild recovery in the global economy next year, developing Asia and the Pacific should bounce back to about 6% growth in 2010.

"Rebalancing Growth. With global imbalances now unwinding, Asia needs to adjust.... Developing Asian

countries need to reinforce domestic demand and revitalize their domestic economies. They need to spend more on health, education, and social security to reduce household needs for precautionary savings.... They also need the policies that promote small and medium-sized enterprises and service industries to better align domestic production with domestic demand.... ADB will work closely with governments in the true spirit of partnership to find effective and concrete solutions.

"To further strengthen the investment climate, Asia needs seamless infrastructure, which includes physical assets and the enabling policies, regulations, and institutions. ADB's infrastructure investments last year totaled more than \$5 billion in transport and energy alone. But with financing needs estimated at \$750 billion a year, much more needs to be done. Our Asian Infrastructure Initiative, unveiled last year, is a step in that direction.

"Climate Change: Investing in Low Carbon Growth.

As Asia assumes a larger role on the world stage, it must also assume its responsibility for other pressing global problems—like climate change. Simply put, we must ramp up our efforts to put the region on a path of low-carbon growth. At a time when investment is desperately needed to stimulate economies, we need to target investments to clean energy to mitigate climate change. This is not an option; it is an imperative.

"ADB has made climate change a top priority. Last year we provided nearly \$1.7 billion for projects with clean energy components, far exceeding our \$1 billion target.

"Climate change also brings a higher risk of natural disasters. To supplement the Climate Change Fund established last year, we have created a \$40 million Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund.

Conclusion. "With Strategy 2020, the replenished ADF, a substantial GCI, and our ongoing commitment to institutional effectiveness, ADB is well positioned to play an expanded role in the region's future development.

"Our annual meeting is an opportune time to reaffirm our commitment to the people we serve—the poor of Asia and the Pacific. The results of our efforts are clearly visible. They can be seen in Bangladesh, where ADB projects are drawing women more fully into the development process; ... in Afghanistan, where mobile telephones are improving the quality of health care as well as access to finance, education, and other critical services; in Papua New Guinea, where poor villagers are improving their prospects by protecting their marine resources; and here in Indonesia, as part of the Coral Triangle Initiative to protect reefs and fisheries....

"There are countless success stories across developing Asia and the Pacific. Our region still faces many challenges and must work hard to address the stark inequalities and

hardships facing the poor. Yet it continues to be a region of great hope and tremendous opportunity. With the full confidence of our shareholders, ADB will work hand-in-hand with all partners to help the region through these difficult times, and help build a more vibrant, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive society for Asia and the Pacific, and the world at large."

Pension Matters

Hans-Juergen Springer

An ADB Pension Committee meeting took place on 20 July 2009 to discuss the actuarial valuation report for the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) ended 30 September 2008 and the recommendation for ADB's contribution for calendar year 2009. The meeting was preceded by a briefing session given by the two actuarial consultants from Watson Wyatt Hong Kong Ltd. who have prepared the annual actuarial valuation for the last several years. The briefing, which had been requested by several committee members, was the first of its kind and proved to be very informative as the subject of pension valuation is a highly technical matter and not easy to understand for most committee members.

Chaired by ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda, the meeting approved an ADB contribution to the SRP of "at least ... 27.84% of participants remuneration for 2009." This rate compared with a contribution of 16% approved last year for 2008. (It should be noted, however, that a one-time lump sum contribution by ADB brought the total 2008 contribution to 27%). The committee further approved that the budget contribution rate to the SRP will be "gradually increased."

As a result of the 2008–2009 economic slump, pension funds have been adversely affected the world over. The SRP investments are no exception, as indicated by a negative growth of 20.4% in the pension year 2008. This decline in SRP asset values came after several years in which annual growth averaged 15%. In the committee meeting, ADB reiterated its firm commitment to fund our defined benefit pension plan in accordance with its obligation as laid out in the SRP legal document: "ADB will...contribute the part of the cost and expenses of the Plan not provided by the contributions of participants and income of the Retirement Fund..."

In response to comments about improved communication on SRP matters, ADB promised to consider various measures that would give Pension Committee members as well as SRP participants and pensioners more relevant and updated information that would enhance the transparency of the SRP.

Health Insurance Updates

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)

Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP). Health insurance continues to be at the forefront of retirees' concerns—along with pensions. As noted in the report given at AFE's Annual Meeting, claims are up and premiums will follow the trend. To help keep costs down, we encourage members to ask doctors to prescribe generic medicines and to use applicable national health insurance as a first resort.

Long-Term Care Insurance. We welcome ADB's initiative to offer long-term care (LTC) insurance. As of the end of July (the cut-off date for signing up with no "waiting period" for the insurance to pay out upon need), 1,291 people (including active staff) had applied for the insurance.

AFE undertook a small study among members with e-mail access. The main findings are as follows:

1. Private LTC insurance is not available in most ADB member countries and is of limited availability in others. Government-supported LTC is available in some member countries.
2. To make an informed decision, each pensioner needs to determine what is available in his or her own geographical area of residence/retirement and to compare these with the Vanbreda option. For countries where LTC insurance is not available, the alternative is to pay the cost of LTC out of pension or other income, or to provide for LTC needs (arising from physical and mental disabilities associated with ageing) through savings or purchasing annuities programs for such contingencies. The study therefore also compares the benefit stream from the Vanbreda LTC insurance with such alternatives.
3. While it is not possible to predict one's future physical or mental abilities, cogent statistics from the US are available for reference. These indicate that the proportion of age cohorts with cognitive impairment or loss of two "activities of daily living" (ADLs) is 3.7% for 65–69, rising to 35% for 85 and over. Evidence suggests that children in families where one or more parents have Alzheimer's disease are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than others in the population. These statistics may also be taken into account in evaluating the Vanbreda offer.

The complete report is available on the website (<http://afe-adb.org>, see pp. 28–29). If you would like a hardcopy, please contact the AFE office.

Vanbreda Cards. Some Vanbreda cards have an outdated address for Vanbreda. Please note the following:

Vanbreda, Belgium
 P.O. Box 69
 Plantin en Moretuslei 299
 2140 Antwerpen, Belgium
 Tel: (32) (3) 217-6824
 Toll-free from US: 011 800 9687 4647
 1 800 800 6020
 Fax: (32) (3) 663-28-10

Vanbreda, Kuala Lumpur
 Mailing address—for all claims
 PO Box 10612
 50718 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Office address
 Vanbreda International
 3B-15-3A, Level 15, Block 3B
 Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5
 Kuala Lumpur Sentral
 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Tel: (32) (3) 217-6824
 Toll-free numbers
 From the Philippines: 00 800 9687 4647
 From US, using AT&T, MCI, Sprint: 011 800 9687 4647
 From US, all other carriers: 1 800 800 6020

Vanbreda, US
 Vanbreda is opening an office in the US—ADB will advise us when this has been accomplished.
 Bills can be sent through
 Vanbreda, c/o Asian Development Bank
 North American Representative Office
 815 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 325
 Washington, DC 20006

Resident missions and resident offices are authorized to accept bills to Vanbreda to be sent by pouch to the head office for further transmission to Vanbreda.

Hospital Accreditation. Members have raised questions about acquiring medical care outside the US at acceptable standards, especially given the costs of medical care in the US. For information on hospitals outside the US and accredited by the US-based Joint Commission International, see <http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/>. The website explains what the commission does and how it does it, and lists over 300 accredited hospitals and laboratories in 35 countries worldwide, plus their areas of expertise. (Facilities must apply for listing, so it is not comprehensive and there will be other good facilities not listed.) The listing may be useful to those having treatment or surgery not of an emergency nature.

AFE Website

Gam de Armas (ADB 1981–2000)

The website is evolving, and there will be continuing enhancements to make it more user-friendly and relevant. Readers are thus encouraged to email suggestions and comments. Members may also send news and announcements to afe-adb@adb.org about their chapters for possible inclusion in the website and/or the AFE newsletter. By October, the website will carry more current events.

Some members have confused the AFE-ADB website with the ADB Alumni Portal maintained by ADB, which requires individual user IDs and passwords to sign in and provides the following useful information and services:

1. information for ADB pensioners on the Staff Retirement Plan, Group Medical Insurance Plan, Group Life Insurance Plan, and the related forms;
2. Alumni of Former Employees Directory to reconnect with old friends;
3. lifetime forwarding of your “@adbalumni.org” email to your current email account; and
4. ADB Alumni Network to connect with other alumni and former employees to share interests.

To address this problem, the homepage will now carry the following statement at the end of “Welcome to the AFE-ADB website”: This website is separate from the ADB Alumni Portal maintained by ADB. If you need to go to this portal, please go to the “About AFE-ADB” section and click on the ADB Alumni Portal link under “Useful links.”

The website may also have a new subsection under

“Member’s Corner” to publish portions of email messages received by AFE or messages coming from affiliated yahoogroups that are of general interest, appealing, informative, and even funny incidents during life at ADB.



New Members

AFE-ADB extends a warm welcome to the following new members of the Association (country of residence is indicated in brackets).

April 2009

Santos, Damasa P. (Philippines)
Hung, Li-Chun (Taipei, China)
Legisma, Leticia G. (Philippines)
Bolaño, Divina V. (Philippines)
Hodgkinson, David T. (Thailand)
Curtis, Grant A. (Canada)
Rajan, Raveendranath (Malaysia)
Abbas, Saif (Pakistan)
Rahman, M. Jamilur (Philippines)
Ito, Tetsu (Philippines)
Villamejor, Mildred R. (Philippines)
Bajpai, Shyam P. (Philippines)

May 2009

Dayal, Pratima (India)

June 2009

Sayon, Connie D. (Philippines)
Chin, Sam C. (Malaysia)
Alvaran, Josefina E. (Philippines)
Asra, Abusar (Indonesia)
Lizot, Patrick R. (France)

July 2009

Chew, Siew Tuan (United States)
Torres, Stella O. (Philippines)
Kriegsmann, Klaus-Peter (Germany)

August 2009

Liu, Fangyu (China, Peoples Rep. of)
Aza, Rebecca A. (Canada)
Abejo, Martin S. (Philippines)
Almazora, Ma. Lourdes (United States)
Cagayat, Tutty Suwendah (Indonesia)
Diaz, Thelma (United States)
Mitra, Manoshi (India)
Vanjildorj, Luvsanchultem (Mongolia)

September 2009

Hashim, Md. Saad (Malaysia)

Bali 2009

President Haruhiko Kuroda's Address to AFE-ADB

Bali | 2 May 2009



ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda and AFE President Bong-Suh Lee

Former ADB Vice President Bong-Suh Lee, Executive Secretary Springer, distinguished guests, Association members, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to join you this evening. It is, as always, a great pleasure to meet with ADB's former employees. I think it's a tribute to the dedication of ADB staff that so many of you continue to attend our annual meetings after leaving or retiring from the bank, and we are delighted to welcome you once again this year.

As you know, two of last year's major achievements were the adoption of our new long-term strategic framework – Strategy 2020 – and the replenishment of the Asian Development Fund. This year, we have been granted a 200% increase in our OCR base – tripling our resources available to effectively respond to the growing development needs of developing Asia and the Pacific.

While this major capital increase is necessary to pursue our goals under Strategy 2020, it also could not have been timelier. The region has been hit hard by the global economic downturn. And the capital increase will allow us

to stand by our DMCs and maximize our own efforts to help them weather the storm at this difficult time.

Strategy 2020 emphasizes that poverty reduction can be sustained only if more people are economically productive, economic growth takes place in a well-managed natural environment, and neighboring economies work within larger and freer markets to achieve shared interests through cooperation. With renewed financial resources in both OCR and ADF operations, and the talent and commitment of our staff, I am confident we will continue to make an important contribution to Asia's future economic and social progress.

On behalf of all of us at ADB, I would like to thank you for your ongoing engagement and the many contributions you make to ADB's development goals as "goodwill ambassadors."

Let me close with a word of welcome to AFE-ADB President, former ADB Vice President Bong-Suh Lee, and my best wishes and toast to AFE-ADB for continued success in the year ahead.

Cheers! Thank you.

Country Coordinators' Meeting

Bali International Convention Centre | Bali | 2 May 2009



Jill Gale de Villa, Hans-Juergen Springer, and David Parker

Minutes

Present:

Hans-Juergen Springer, Jill Gale de Villa, David Parker
Coordinators and coordinators' representatives: Peter Carroll (Australia); Günther Schulz (Europe); Satish Jha (India); Dimiyati Nangju and Roslaini Rasuman (Indonesia); Eiji Kobayashi (Japan); Keon-Woo Lee (Republic of Korea); Dang Fook Lee (Malaysia); Colin Pratt (New Zealand); Naseer Ahmad (Pakistan); Gam de Armas (Philippines).

The meeting commenced at 9:15 a.m. Executive Secretary Hans-Juergen Springer welcomed participants and hoped there would be a good discussion.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted, and the minutes of the Country Coordinators' Meeting in Madrid were approved.

Mr Springer announced for the record that Bong-Suh Lee had been elected as the new AFE-ADB president, starting on 16 February 2009, and that Jill Gale de Villa had been elected as deputy executive secretary, taking office on 1 July 2008.

Executive Secretary's Report (the full report is presented on pp. 20–21). Mr Springer noted that, since AFE-ADB had grown to such an extent that one person could no longer run its affairs alone, he together with the deputy executive secretary and the treasurer now run it as a team. The team holds periodic meetings, discusses matters of importance, and makes decisions. Members are brought in as volunteers. Three committees have been established: (1) the AFE-ADB Pension Council, chaired by Ivan Zimonyi; (2) the Health Insurance Committee, chaired by Ms de Villa; and (3) the Editorial Board, which is also chaired by Ms de Villa and has revamped the AFE-ADB News.

At the end of March 2009, AFE-ADB had 2,356 members, 105 more than in March 2008. AFE's annual subsidy from ADB had been reduced from \$30,000 to \$18,000, because part of the \$30,000 was for rent of the previous executive secretary's apartment, home travel expenses, etc., to which his successor is not entitled. ADB gave a one-time allocation of \$4,000 to compensate for some expenses. Mr Springer acknowledged ADB's very significant in-kind subsidies for items such as printing and mailing newsletters and the directory.

AFE's public relations efforts have included meetings with the ADB President; the new director general of the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD); the AFE-ADB liaison officer in BPMSD; and members of ADB's Board of Directors on the ADB Pension Committee. Meetings with counterparts in Washington-based institutions are planned. Mr Springer attended the annual meetings of several AFE chapters, and received valuable feedback. AFE has started updating the required information relating to its incorporation in Vanuatu.

Commenting on the report, Satish Jha said that the \$12,000 reduction in the ADB subsidy was not justified, because members expect AFE to be involved in more activities, including activities in chapters. Mr Springer said that if AFE can demonstrate wise use of the additional \$4,000 from ADB, in the future some increase might be considered.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer David Parker summarized the Treasurer's Report, which is presented on p. 22.

Pension and Health Insurance Reports. The deputy executive secretary, Ms de Villa, summarized the pension and health insurance reports, which are presented in full on pp. 27–29 and available at <http://afe-adb.org>. She noted that



Eiji Kobayashi, Keon-Woo Lee, Günther Schulz, and Gamaliel De Armas

feedback from country coordinators on health insurance matters is always welcome, and it might be useful if country chapters had a focal point for health insurance matters.

Pensioners' Representative on ADB Pension Committee. The pensioners' representative on the Pension Committee was currently M. Ikramullah Khan. The documentation (circulated to country coordinators) indicated that Mr Khan had been nominated by AFE-ADB, not elected by pensioners. In 1993, BPMSD surveyed pensioners as to whether their representative should be elected by them or nominated by AFE. Of respondents, 85% wanted the representative to be nominated by AFE.

At the present meeting, the country coordinators clearly stated that the sitting executive secretary should automatically be the pensioners' representative. In addition, country coordinators agreed with Ms de Villa's comment that pensioners should be entitled to an alternate representative on the committee. It was decided that the matter of the pensioners' representative and the alternate would be discussed at the AFE-ADB annual general meeting in the afternoon.

Pensioners' Representative on Pension Investment Committee. Mr Springer said that pensioners should also be represented on the Pension Investment Committee, especially given that AFE now has several qualified members. Country coordinators concurred. He noted that, while the Pension Committee probably meets only once a year, the Investment Committee meets often to review investment matters.

Pensioners' Representative on Pension Administration Committee. In the World Bank's Pension Administration Committee, both staff and retirees are represented, but in the ADB Pension Administration Committee, neither staff

nor retirees are represented. Since not even staff members are represented, it may be very difficult for AFE to secure representation; further, representation on the Investment Committee seems more important. Country coordinators concurred.

Health Insurance Committee. In 2006, there was a working group on health insurance, comprising representatives of ADB, the Staff Council, and AFE. The group was established after ADB had cut health insurance benefits for pensioners. Its mandate was to deal with the decisions BPMSD had made in 2005 pertaining to retirees' health insurance matters. It met six times and agreed that it should continue to meet, but the director general, BPMSD, decided there was no need for the committee to meet again. Health insurance issues that could usefully be discussed in that committee include why there is no longer a deductible, whether US residents should pay a higher premium for health insurance, and any changes envisioned for future contracts with the insurer.

Country coordinators agreed that the health insurance committee is still very much needed. Dang Fook Lee pointed out that ADB is a contributory member of the health insurance scheme, but staff and pensioners are also paying premiums and therefore must be allowed to have a say in policy matters.

Dimiyati Nangju expressed the Indonesian chapter's concern about the future viability of ADB's medical insurance, particularly because of the high cost of medical treatment in the US. He noted the advantages of good medical care available in Asia, and the option of US-based members paying higher premiums. Ms de Villa noted that a significant portion of premiums consumed in the US are for people who go there for specialized treatment they can't get elsewhere, which complicates the issue.

For ADB, Vanbreda is both insurer and administrator.



M.M. Soerakoesoemah, Victor The, Dimiyati Nangju, and Roslaini Rasuman

AFE–ADB Work Program for 2009–2010. Mr Nangju suggested that the meeting discuss AFE’s plans for 2009 and 2010. Mr Springer said that the work program and budget for 2009 had been circulated to country coordinators, and the program for 2010 is yet to be developed. Definitely the work of the pension council, the health insurance committee, and the editorial board would continue, as would work on the website. Mr de Armas added that the website would be available to AFE members before being opened to the public. The website will be refined, by adding some links and taking into account members’ suggestions.

This would be unacceptable in the US, because it involves a conflict of interest—US regulations do not allow an insurance broker to be at the same time the insurance administrator. Vanbreda selects the insurance company, which at present is a French company, and it administers the expenses.

Peter Carroll inquired why it should be surprising that pensioners make higher claims than current staff members. Pensioners paid their health insurance premiums when they were ADB staff—partly because they expected that when they got older they would need the insurance. He assumed that any insurance company would take that into account when it did its actuarial projections.

Health Insurance Manual. Mr Springer noted the difficulties of pensioners finding out what the health insurance plan covers, as comprehensive information is found only on the ADB portal, which is accessible only by ADB staff. The World Bank’s retiree website has a 136-page manual describing in detail what is available, the cost, etc. He thought ADB should establish such a manual for ADB’s pensioners. The main work should be done by BPMSD staff, who have access to current information, and the Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST). Dang Fook Lee added that the manual would have to be authoritative, and therefore should come from the employer, not AFE. Gam de Armas mentioned that it should be possible to establish a link from the AFE–ADB website to the relevant ADB database. Mr Springer noted that the material in ADB’s portal is scattered and would have to be brought together into a proper manual.

Keeping Members Interested in AFE–ADB. Eiji Kobayashi noted the importance of keeping members interested in AFE through means including the newsletter and e-mail. However, many e-mails bounce back. Members should therefore be reminded to keep AFE updated whenever their email addresses change. Mr Carroll strongly endorsed the point and noted that some members cannot be contacted by e-mail.

Mr Kobayashi noted the importance of country coordinators maintaining lists of their chapter members and maintaining contact with them to keep them interested, e.g., through reporting back to them about the present annual general meeting. He also suggested that 2010 would be a good year to organize a “homecoming” event in Manila and that AFE and country coordinators give thought to ways of contacting potential new members.

Mr Springer commented that statistics on the number of departing ADB staff joining AFE did not show a trend—about two thirds on average of ADB-leavers join AFE each year. Staff members who have long been with ADB are more likely to be more interested in AFE, and efforts to encourage them to join could include AFE presentations at the retirement seminars organized by ADB. Mr Nangju suggested also increasing activities of interest to nonretiree members and potential members.

Dang Fook Lee added that many former staff members who did not join AFE may simply have forgotten to do so. There may be a way of reaching out to such people, to inform them about the benefits of membership. Consideration could be given to a different fee structure for short-term staff members. Mr Jha suggested that the headquarters team, in cooperation with the country

chapters, look into ways of bringing in former ADB staff who are not members.

Mr Springer noted that ADB's Human Resources Division advises AFE of staff members about to leave, and AFE sends each a letter introducing AFE and what it does, inviting the staff member to join, and enclosing an application form. The headquarters team will also look into making presentations at ADB's retirement seminars and putting information on the Staff Association website.

Keon-Woo Lee said that for the whole AFE to be successful, each country chapter should be successful. Country chapter meetings should therefore be made interesting, as illustrated by the Korea chapter's monthly lunch meetings, which are well attended because they are fun. Part of AFE's accumulated funds could be used to provide an incentive for chapters to become more active, which will encourage more members to participate.

Mr de Armas mentioned the Philippine chapter's recent survey on ways of attracting more members and making members' gatherings more interesting. Suggestions included more frequent meetings; separation of official meetings from social gatherings; and formation of interest groups on photography, cooking, golf, etc. He thought the AFE website could provide an excellent means of promoting AFE and explaining what it is about. Finding missing e-mail addresses and correcting wrong ones will also help. This might be done by asking BPMSD to request pensioners to provide their current e-mail address when submitting their annual pensioner certification form.

Mr Jha suggested extending the India chapter to include members from Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. Mr Springer responded that in the case of the European chapter, the German chapter country coordinator took the initiative to invite members from other European countries. Günther Schulz suggested that the India chapter invite AFE members from neighboring countries to its events, and let the expanded chapter develop from that. It was agreed that a two-pronged approach be taken, with Mr Springer from AFE headquarters and Mr Jha contacting Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Membership List and Fees. Mr Schulz noted the problem of members whose addresses are not known and who are



Peter Carroll and Colin Pratt

not paying their membership fees. AFE members who joined before 2000 are not required to pay membership fees and therefore cannot be removed from membership. While consideration could be given to changing the by-laws to require all members to pay fees, such fees could still not be



Satish Jha

collected from members whose addresses are not known. It would be useful to try to address the question of who are real members and who are not interested in continuing as members.

Mr Schulz raised three points pertaining to fees:

(1) His own annual membership fee had not yet been deducted from his pension; thus, AFE should follow up on the collection of such fees as necessary. (2) Funds that have accumulated over the years should not be spent just because they are available, but should be kept as a reserve for future uncertainties (e.g., problems with the health insurance and pension plans), or for required research. (3) A reasonable amount should be allocated for chapter development. The emphasis in distributing the funds should not be on mathematical rules, but on development—on ways of increasing chapters' activities and of getting more members involved in such activities. Travel of the executive secretary to chapters is a useful example of contributing to development.

Mr Nangju said that every year AFE's funds have been increasing by about \$16,000–\$20,000. He proposed that 50% of the amount collected in the previous year from annual dues be used to benefit AFE, e.g., by topping up the chapter allocations to help develop the chapters and/or supporting the country coordinators' attendance at AFE's annual general meeting. Mr Springer said that AFE's expenses have to be prioritized, and include covering the deficit from the previous year's cocktail reception and an increase in the allowance for the "temporary" secretary employed in the office. A paper on the allocation of AFE's own resources would be prepared soon, taking into account comments at this meeting. Dang Fook Lee cautioned that, when reviewing the use of AFE's own resources, account should be taken of any bearing such review could have on the amount of subsidy ADB will provide.

Mr Springer explained that the system for following up collection of members' dues is working well. Receipt of fees is monitored regularly and reminders are sent annually. When a member has not paid his/her dues for 3 years, he/she will be sent a final reminder. If no response ensues, it is assumed that the person is no longer interested to be an AFE member, and directories, newsletters and other information are no longer provided. Furthermore, in such case, AFE believes that, after consulting with the country coordinator, it should delete the name from the membership list. Gam de Armas suggested and it was agreed that the country coordinator first be consulted since he may be in a position to locate the member and clarify the non-payment.

Mr Jha inquired whether members could be informed once the membership fee has been deducted from their pension.

Mr Carroll stated that it is not legally acceptable to require members who joined prior to 2000 to now pay fees.

He suggested reintroducing life memberships, particularly for short-term ADB staff; for other staff taking out life memberships, the fee could be increased if necessary.

Colin Pratt noted that relatively few New Zealanders have access to US dollars, and that therefore paying of fees is severely hampered by the time taken in arranging a US dollar payment, exchange rate considerations, and bank charges. Mr Schulz mentioned that transferring money from a European bank to ADB is tremendously expensive. He therefore wondered if an arrangement could be made to allow members to pay in local currency to the ADB offices around the world. Ms de Villa noted that there might be other means of collecting money such as PayPal. Mr Springer mentioned the possibility of members paying by credit card. Another option is for the country coordinator to collect the fees and remit them.

Mr Kobayashi explained that most members of the Japan chapter are not pensioners; more than half were short-term members of ADB staff, and they do not pay membership fees. With collections of annual membership fees totaling over \$16,000, Japan's members are not convinced that they should keep paying fees, and they do not request a subsidy. It was not clear how a small amount of around \$500 could be used for the benefit of all their members, and some former staff find it difficult to remit their fees. Part of AFE funds were once used for victims of the tsunami. All in all, it is difficult to convince Japan's members to keep paying their fees.

Impact of US Dollar Depreciation. Mr Jha said that Indian chapter members are concerned about the erosion of the value of their pensions due to the depreciation of the US dollar. AFE should ask other chapters how they feel about this issue. Indian chapter members request an option to choose their pension currency and to give them up to, say, 3 years to decide. Mr Springer said he understood that the India chapter suggests that, after a pensioner elects the currency of disbursement, he or she should be permitted to change the currency once or so afterwards. AFE will discuss such suggestions with ADB.

Cooperation with Staff Council. Dang Fook Lee inquired why the work program for 2009 and the other reports contained nothing on cooperation with the Staff Council. Mr Springer said that the cooperation is indeed ongoing.

Number of Accompanying Persons at Annual Meeting. Mr Jha requested that participants be allowed more than one accompanying person to the ADB Annual Meeting, as sometimes both husband and wife need assistance.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

AFE–ADB 23rd Annual General Meeting

Bali International Convention Centre | Bali | 2 May 2009



Jill Gale de Villa, Bong-Suh Lee, Hans-Juergen Springer, and David Parker

Minutes

The meeting commenced at 2:15 p.m. The executive secretary, Hans-Juergen Springer, welcomed participants and expressed appreciation that the Government of Indonesia had chosen such an attractive location for the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors.

New President and Deputy Executive Secretary. Mr Springer announced the election of (1) former ADB vice-president, Bong-Suh Lee, as AFE–ADB president for a term of 4 years from 16 February 2009, and (2) Jill Gale de Villa as deputy executive secretary for a term of 4 years from 1 July 2008.

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

A moment of silence was observed for members who had died in the past year. Eiji Kobayashi conveyed Mrs Tarumizu's thanks to the many members who had sent expressions of condolence upon the death of her husband, former ADB President, Kimimasa Tarumizu.

AFE–ADB President's Address. Mr Lee welcomed participants and thanked the Government of Indonesia for inviting ADB and AFE–ADB to hold their annual meetings in Bali. He noted how AFE–ADB had grown from small beginnings in 1987, and he made special mention of M. Ikramullah Khan and Masao Fujioka, who had "spared no time and effort to make the Association what it is today: a strong organization working for the benefit of its members and promoting the developmental goals of ADB." Mr Lee also gave an account of the useful meetings he had had during his visit to ADB's headquarters in Manila in March 2009.

Minutes of 22nd Annual General Meeting in Madrid were approved.

Executive Secretary's Report. In presenting his report, Mr Springer noted the many changes that had occurred in the past year:

- He took over as only the second executive secretary in 22 years, after Mr Khan stepped down.
- Ms de Villa was elected as deputy executive secretary.
- AFE–ADB President Tadao Chino, former ADB President Tarumizu, and several other members died.

- The AFE-ADB by-laws were amended to (1) incorporate the new instant-run-off voting system, and (2) spell out specific action for amending the by-laws.
- Mr Lee, ADB vice-president during 1993–1998, was elected the new AFE-ADB president.
- The newly elected AFE-ADB executive secretary, the deputy executive secretary, and the treasurer constituted themselves as a team, held periodic meetings to decide on work needed, and broadened AFE's resource base by drawing in members willing to contribute time and expertise.
- Committees were established to advise the AFE team on pension, health insurance, and editorial matters.
- To the extent possible, communication with AFE members is done electronically.
- The AFE-ADB News was revamped by the editorial board headed by Ms de Villa.
- The AFE-ADB website, www.afe-adb.org, a work-in-progress, became available for members to access on the internet.

AFE-ADB has 2,356 members, which approximates the membership of the ADB Staff Association. In contrast, the World Bank's 1818 Society has a membership of about 7,000 compared with a total staff of 12,000. The significant support ADB gives to AFE-ADB was acknowledged with gratitude.

Mr Springer mentioned "information sharing" with the people or organizations whose interests are similar to those of AFE-ADB, or who are interested to know about AFE-ADB's present activities. Meetings had taken place with ADB management; the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD); ADB Staff Council; ADB staff

representatives on the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) Pension Committee; and board members who are on the Pension Committee. He anticipated participating in consultations at the forthcoming meeting of the Washington-based retiree organizations of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). He had attended the annual reunions of AFE's Australia, Europe, India, and Indonesia chapters and a gathering organized by ADB's Thailand Resident Mission for current and former staff. At these meetings, he briefed participants about present AFE-ADB activities and listened to their concerns, foremost of which were pension issues.

Mr Springer said that Ms de Villa would report on pensions and health insurance matters later in the meeting. However, he noted that the Secretary of the Pension Committee had issued to all staff and pensioners a letter that sought to reassure them that ADB pensions are safe in these times of sharp economic downturn. He also mentioned that the recently established AFE-ADB Pension Council had been briefed by BPMSD staff and had discussed matters such as pensioners' representation on the three ADB pension committees. On health insurance, he said that AFE had established the Health Insurance Committee to advise on matters relating to the Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP). Claims had increased significantly in 2008, and a premium increase was likely. AFE wished to reach out to ADB in a cooperative spirit by requesting that the tripartite health insurance committee, consisting of BPMSD, Staff Council, and AFE-ADB, be convened.

Mr Springer reported that a law firm in Vanuatu, where AFE-ADB had been incorporated as a charitable organization in 1996, had been engaged for necessary updates.

He noted that (1) for the financial year ending 31 December 2008, the external auditors had again given AFE a "clean bill of health"; (2) during 2008, AFE's revenues (net of contributions for the annual cocktail reception in Madrid) had increased by nearly 10% to about \$25,000; and (3) deliberations had started on the future use of AFE resources.

In closing, Mr Springer said that the new AFE-ADB team would continue to seek the assistance of members willing to contribute their time and effort, and would learn from those who gave advice.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of 2008 Financial Statements, the Treasurer, David Parker, said that at the end of 2008, AFE had total assets of \$156,000. Just over 70% of that was invested in 1-year time deposits. Net revenues in 2008 (excluding contributions for the cocktail reception in Madrid) totaled about



\$24,650, about two-thirds of which came from annual association fees. Net expenses in 2008 (excluding expenses for the cocktail reception in Madrid) totaled about \$6,800. Net revenues were therefore almost \$18,000 higher than net expenses.

Mr Parker said that some of the funds totaling almost \$122,000 in the membership fees accounts could now be allocated specifically to help AFE expand its activities. Policy guidelines, which take into account comments and ideas so far received, were being developed, and a draft would be circulated to country coordinators shortly. The policy of maintaining the voluntary contributions accounts (exceeding \$21,500 at end-2008) only for extraordinary expenses will also be reviewed.

The 2008 financial statements were approved.

Report on Pension Matters. Ms de Villa noted the serious concerns that members had expressed about the safety of their pensions. She said that the AFE-ADB Pension Council, headed by Ivan Zimonyi, had been established to advise on and consider pension matters. The full report is on pp. 27–28.

Report on Health Insurance Matters. Ms de Villa reported that the AFE team remains actively involved in this matter. The full report is on pp. 28–29.

BPMSD Statements on Staff Retirement Plan and Post Retirement Insurance Plans. Mr Springer read BPMSD's statements to the meeting. They appear in full on p. 29.

Pensioners' Representative on SRP Committees. Peter Carroll, country coordinator for Australia, noted that pensioners are very concerned that they should be properly represented on the ADB Pension Committee. He said that this issue had been discussed at length, both on the internet by country coordinators and at the annual general meeting in Madrid the previous year. He therefore moved "that the duly elected executive secretary be automatically appointed as the pensioners' representative on the ADB Pension Committee, and that he has the authority to appoint an alternate member." The motion was carried.

Mr Kobayashi said that in order for pensioners to continue receiving their pensions, the SRP Investment Committee is very important. However, pensioners are not represented on the committee. He therefore moved that AFE-ADB request ADB to allow AFE-ADB to have a representative on the SRP Investment Committee. The motion was carried.

Long-Term Care Insurance. Arun Adarkar, while welcoming ADB's initiative in proposing a long-term care insurance plan, expressed concern that the extremely high amounts of premium that pensioners would be paying out

over the years until they reached the age of, say, 95 could mean that they would be paying more in terms of premiums than they would eventually be getting from the insurance. Ms de Villa responded that the matter was quite a concern, and the AFE Health Insurance Committee was going to look into it and feed back whatever was learned. Mr Springer added that BPMSD had been asked to issue the premium table for "after 75" as an addendum. BPMSD's answers to any other questions that had been raised should also be included in the addendum. He also requested that, as far as possible, if anyone sends a query to BPMSD, they should also send a copy to him, as it would be useful for the team to know what members were discussing with BPMSD.

Use of AFE-ADB Funds for Charitable Work. Lily The, spouse of Victor The, suggested that AFE-ADB set aside a small portion of its money for the poor, especially children, perhaps rotating annually the amount set aside among ADB member countries. Ms de Villa noted that in late 2008 AFE-ADB had moved in that direction by making it possible for members to contribute to ADB's Staff Community Fund, which funds charities in and around Metro Manila. The Staff Community Fund is a convenient vehicle for starting our charitable work. Gam de Armas added that charity work could be done by individual chapters. Social concerns are also reflected in articles now appearing in the AFE-ADB News.

Quorum. Mrs The asked if a quorum for the meeting was required. Mr Springer said that the current by-laws do not require a quorum, and the matter will be included in a comprehensive review of the by-laws to be undertaken probably in 2010.

Issue of IDs ("pink cards"). Anisa Romero noted that ADB does not issue IDs to resignees. She requested AFE to take this matter up with ADB again next year. Mr Springer responded that surviving spouses of deceased retirees who draw a pension from ADB or who have health insurance with ADB may comprise the group for which AFE will first make this request, given that they clearly have business with ADB and need access.

Tripartite Health Insurance Committee. Mr Carroll noted that many issues had been raised during the year with regard to the health insurance policy. Noting that there appeared to be no formal arrangement for discussions among AFE-ADB, ADB, and staff, he thought it very important to ask BPMSD to create a health insurance committee to discuss the many issues that face staff and pensioners. He therefore moved that "on a priority basis the AFE-ADB secretariat request BPMSD to establish a health insurance committee composed of representatives of BPMSD, Staff Council, and AFE-ADB for

the purpose of dealing with issues of health insurance.” The motion was carried.

Health Insurance Manual. Colin Pratt, country coordinator for New Zealand, noting that many changes to the medical insurance plan had been made in recent years, said he was looking for somewhere where everything could be put together. He therefore moved that “the executive secretary of AFE–ADB request BPMSD to prepare a health insurance manual in cooperation with Vanbreda to be available to all members of the GMIP, including retirees.” The motion was carried.

Ma. Guia Cabugao said that in the past there was a hard copy of the handbook, but so many changes had been made that it was decided to make everything available electronically on the website of Vanbreda. Mr de Armas responded that, given the concerns of retirees, the handbook, in order to be official, should come directly from BPMSD rather than from another source.

Depreciation of US Dollar: Impact on Pensions. V.V. Desai raised two issues. First, he said that there is a lot of concern among his colleagues in the Indian chapter about the value of the pension fund in the long term if not soon, given the uncertainty about the value of the US dollar. The second issue, of concern to people whose home currency is not the US dollar but who receive their pension in dollars, is whether and how such people could seek some kind

of risk insurance protection against the possibility of the dollar depreciating further. He suggested that this issue be addressed, or begin to be addressed, by AFE as well as ADB, by constituting a study group to look into the matter and at least provide some advice. Mr Springer said that many pensioners are drawing their pensions in US dollars, but because their national currency has appreciated, their pension in terms of their national currency is worth less than what it was before. This should be taken up with ADB, but he would appreciate it if some resources from among the Indian economists, for example, could help draw up a paper to be presented to ADB.

AFE–ADB Logo. Y-Chie Primo inquired about progress on finding a logo for AFE–ADB. Mr Springer said that a decision would be reached by the next annual general meeting.

AFE–ADB Website. Mr Springer said that the AFE–ADB website, which Mr de Armas has worked on with the website designer, is available but is still a work-in-progress. The AFE–ADB team has not yet had the time to provide all the content. Until the website is complete it is to be available only to members. Ms de Villa added that when the website is complete, part will be accessible only to members, password protected.

Mr de Armas gave a detailed PowerPoint demonstration on the website. He said that on going to the address, www.afe-adb.org, one sees the words “UNDER CONSTRUCTION.”



The home page will contain important news of the day, week, or month. Right now, for example, the heading "News and Events" has two items: "Bong-Suh Lee is 4th AFE-ADB President" and "12th European Chapter Meeting at Bremen, Germany in September," and there is a brief note on each item. The reader can get more details by clicking on the link "Read More."

Mr de Armas then described the sections of the website (for which there are tabs across the top of the screen): "Home," "About AFE-ADB," "Chapters," "News and Events," "Benefits," "Publications," and "Members' Corner." Opening the home page for each section, he showed a short write-up, as well as some menus on the left side of the page.

Mr Pratt noted that the map in the "Chapters" section

should be changed to include New Zealand and more of Australia. Mr de Armas responded that, since this was only the first run of the website, probably all the drawings in the home pages would be changed. It was because such changes are still to be made that the website is not open to the public. He added that the intention is to also make the website a "one-stop shop" with direct links to other sites that will be useful to members, for example in seeking assistance from ADB in health insurance and pension matters. There could eventually also be an on-line forum. Mr de Armas requested members to send in any suggestions regarding improvements they would like.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4 p.m.

Address by the President

Bong-Suh Lee (ADB 1993–1998)



A FE-ADB members, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to welcome you to the 23rd annual general meeting of the Association of Former Employees of ADB. I would like to thank our hosts, the Government of Indonesia, for inviting ADB and our Association to hold our

respective annual meetings on the island of Bali, renowned the world over for its great natural and cultural attractions. I am confident many of you will find time to explore the many sights of Bali by participating in the accompanying persons program arranged by the organizers of the annual meeting.

You are probably all aware that I have only recently taken over as president of AFE-ADB, the association of former employees founded 22 years ago. From small beginnings at its inaugural annual general meeting in Osaka, Japan, in 1987 with 60 members in attendance, it has grown to be an association representing more than 2,300 members living in 57 countries around the globe. Special credit must go to M. Ikramullah Khan, AFE's founder and first executive secretary, and to Masao Fujioka who strongly

supported the establishment of AFE while he was president of ADB, and who later was AFE president for 14 years. Regrettably both are unable to attend this meeting. They spared no time and effort to make the Association what it is today: a strong organization working for the benefit of its members and promoting the developmental goals of ADB. ADB has responded by granting the Association facilities and privileges, and bearing the cost of many of its activities. We should acknowledge ADB's contribution to AFE-ADB with gratitude.

I recently revisited ADB's headquarters in Manila, where I was a vice president from 1993 to 1998, to meet with ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda, ADB's vice presidents, board members, and senior staff. I returned home with the impression that ADB is earnest in its desire to have a strong association of former employees. I also met with the officers of the Association: the executive secretary, deputy executive secretary, and treasurer, who gave me a comprehensive briefing on present and future AFE activities. I believe the Association is in good hands. During my stay in Manila, I met with a good number of AFE members, many of whom I remember from my years as an ADB vice-president. I can see there is an active interest among AFE members to contribute to furthering the Association's goals.

Let me conclude by saying to all AFE members that, as your president, I will work together with the Association's other officers to make AFE-ADB an even stronger organization.

I wish you all a pleasant sojourn in Bali.
Thank you.

Executive Secretary's Report

Hans-Juergen Springer

2008/2009 in Review. The past year was a year of change. M. Ikramullah Khan, the founder of AFE-ADB and its first executive secretary, stepped down at the Madrid annual general meeting in May last year, and I took over as only the second executive secretary in 22 years. In the first half of 2008, Jill Gale de Villa was elected to the position of deputy executive secretary, and took office on 1 July 2008.

There was also the unwelcome news of the death of our president, Tadao Chino, in July last year, the passing of one of our most distinguished members, former ADB president, Kimimasa Tarumizu, in February this year, and the deaths of several other members.

In view of the concern that had been expressed by many members about the "negative voting system", a review of possible positive voting systems for AFE was undertaken. The review concluded that instant run-off voting, also known as preferential voting, would be the most appropriate. Members supported the review's conclusion, and in January this year voted to approve amendments to the by-laws to (i) incorporate the proposed voting system, and (ii) spell out specific actions to be taken for amending the by-laws.

On 16 February 2009, I was pleased to announce that in accordance with the provisions of the revised by-laws, Bong-Suh Lee, ADB vice-president during 1993-1998, was elected as the new AFE-ADB President with immediate effect.

The newly-elected executive secretary and deputy executive secretary, together with the AFE treasurer, constituted themselves as a team and held periodic meetings to deliberate and decide on work that needs to be undertaken. They also decided to broaden AFE's resource-base by drawing in AFE members willing to contribute time to AFE affairs. Further, committees were established to advise the AFE team on pension, health insurance and editorial matters. These committees meet whenever the need arises. I would like to express my appreciation for their work.

To the extent possible we have endeavored to communicate with AFE members by electronic means in place of "snail mail" since electronic mail reaches people much faster and is considerably cheaper. AFE announcements, reports and other news are now being sent out only by e-mail to AFE members who are on record with an e-mail address. (I reiterate our request for members to update their contact details whenever changes occur). For members who do not have access to the internet, we

dispatch all important AFE announcements and messages by regular mail. In the same vein, we have brought to ADB's attention that it is important in their change-over to electronic communication to also take into account that about a third of AFE members do not have access to a computer.

You will have observed that the semi-annual AFE-ADB News has been revamped by AFE's newly-established editorial board headed by Ms de Villa. At times the editorial board also meets virtually, when one of its members, John Cole in Vancouver, is connected to us in Manila through Skype.

In the first quarter of 2009 we took great strides towards making the AFE-ADB website (<http://afe-adb.org>) operational. While our website is still a work-in-progress, it is now available for anyone to access on the internet. Your comments are most welcome. We have also pointed out to AFE members the importance of another website, www.adbalumni.org, which was established by ADB for all former staff, not just AFE members. This website contains very valuable information on ADB pensions and health insurance; it also now includes the monthly pension statements.

AFE-ADB Today. As of 31 March 2009, AFE-ADB had 2,356 members, an increase of 105 since a year earlier. 1,159, or 49 percent, were ADB pensioners. The current AFE-ADB membership more or less equals that of the ADB Staff Association. In contrast, the World Bank retirees' association, the 1818 Society, has a total membership of about 7,000 compared to a total staff of 12,000.

ADB support to AFE is significant. Although ADB's annual subsidy to AFE was reduced in 2009 to US\$18,000 from the earlier amount of US\$30,000, ADB bears substantial AFE costs for printing and mailing the AFE-ADB News twice a year and the AFE-ADB membership directory every 3 years. ADB also pays for mailing announcements and messages to AFE members without access to a computer as part of its general office support, which includes provision of an administrative assistant, office space, equipment and supplies. In addition, ADB's Office of the Secretary supports arrangements for AFE's annual meeting including provision of conference space for the country coordinators' meeting, the annual general meeting like the one we are having here this afternoon, and the cocktail reception like the one we will be attending this evening in the Westin Resort Hotel. I acknowledge with gratitude ADB's support to AFE-ADB. ADB indeed recognizes the role that AFE members play as "unofficial ambassadors" for ADB. Or, as former World Bank president Barber Conable said: "I believe that our retirees...are the greatest public relations asset the Bank has. They are out there in a society which generally knows very little about the Bank."

AFE President Lee's Visit to Manila. AFE's President Bong-Suh Lee visited Manila on 26–28 March this year. During his 1½-day stay, Mr Lee paid a courtesy call on ADB President Kuroda; Vice President for Administration and Finance Bindu Lohani tendered a lunch for Mr Lee; and AFE hosted a cocktail reception to introduce Mr Lee to ADB board members and senior staff, and to give AFE members the opportunity to meet him. Mr Lee's visit not only enabled him to familiarize himself more closely with AFE-ADB's activities, but also successfully reconnected him with ADB as well as people he had worked with as a vice-president, and others at AFE and ADB.

Networking. I would like to briefly touch on what I call "information sharing" with the people or organizations whose interests are similar to those of AFE or who are interested to know about AFE's present activities. First, the AFE-ADB team paid a courtesy call on ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda in January 2009 and the Director General of BPMSD, Masayuki Tamagawa, in October 2008. Briefings were given to the Vice-President for Administration and Finance, Bindu Lohani, and we have had frequent contacts with the AFE liaison officer in BPMSD's Human Resources Division.

We also met with members of the ADB Staff Council and the two staff members elected to represent ADB staff on the ADB Pension Committee in order to exchange views on topics of mutual interest. In addition, we met with an executive director and alternate who are active members of the Pension Committee. In July 2008, we participated in a luncheon that brought together present and past Filipino professional staff. During the European chapter's get-together in Potsdam, Germany, in September last year, I met with the President of the World Bank's 1818 Society who was attending their German chapter's annual reunion. We reached broad agreement that periodic consultations are desirable. An opportunity for such consultations will arise at the meeting of the three Washington-based retiree organizations of World Bank, IMF, and Inter-American Development Bank to be held soon. I recently met with the chairman and general manager of the Philippine Retirement Authority, which provides—among other things—Special Resident Retiree Visas to foreign nationals in the Philippines. ADB had negotiated with PRA a vastly reduced bank deposit of US\$1,500 for former ADB staff. Such reduced deposit is, however, not available to retirees who had earlier paid a much higher sum.

In recent months I attended the annual reunions of the European, Australia, Indonesia, and India chapters as well as a gathering organized by ADB's Thailand Resident Mission for their staff and former ADBans living in Thailand. I briefed participants about present AFE activities and listened to their concerns, foremost of which were pension issues.

Pension and Health Insurance. Since Ms de Villa is going to provide detailed information on pensions and health insurance in her report, I would just like to point out that, as a result of our efforts (including those of Mr as the pensioners' representative on the ADB Pension Committee), the secretary of the Pension Committee issued a letter to all staff and pensioners that sought to reassure them that ADB pensions are safe in these times of a sharp economic downturn. Ms de Villa will give you more details about the AFE pension council, which we recently established, and briefings by BPMSD staff to the council. Matters like pensioners' representation on the three ADB pension committees were also discussed by the AFE pension council.

AFE has established a health committee to advise AFE on matters relating to our Group Medical Insurance Plan. Claims increased significantly last year, and a premium increase is likely in the future. To forestall any one-sided actions to reduce retirees' benefits under the Plan, AFE would like to reach out to ADB in a cooperative spirit by requesting convening of a tripartite health committee of BPMSD, Staff Council, and AFE.

AFE-ADB Incorporation. AFE was incorporated as a charitable organization in Vanuatu in 1996. We have engaged a law firm in Vanuatu to enter the necessary changes and updates in Vanuatu's corporate register. The process is ongoing and should be completed in a few months.

Financial Matters. Since David Parker will provide a report on AFE's financial standing, I will limit myself to a few major points. First, it was reassuring that the external auditors gave AFE again a "clean bill of health" for the financial year ending 31 December 2008. Second, the Association's revenues (net of contributions for the annual cocktail reception) increased by nearly 10% to about \$25,000, which reflected mainly an increase in AFE's membership, but also an increase in interest income. Third, we have started deliberations on the future use of AFE resources, and a report to the country coordinators is expected soon.

Outlook for 2009/2010. In the few months since the new AFE team has taken over, we have sought to expand our resource-base by drawing in AFE members willing to contribute their time. This has shown initial good results.

In the period ahead, the new AFE team will continue to seek the assistance of AFE members willing to contribute their time and efforts, and we will learn from those who give us advice. We are looking forward to another successful year.

Thank you for your continuing interest in AFE's affairs, and we look forward to your suggestions and participation.

Treasurer's Report

David Parker (ADB 1976–2004)



All members whose email addresses we know should have recently received by email a copy of the audited financial statements for 2008. It is pleasing that the independent auditors again noted in their report that the statements “present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the

Association ... and the results of its activities and changes in net assets and its cash flows ... in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

As indicated in the statements, the Association's assets at the end of 2008 totaled over \$156,000 compared with about \$142,000 a year earlier. Almost \$112,000, or 72% of the total, was held in time deposits, while about \$35,000, or 23% of the total, was in the form of cash deposits. The time deposits consist of \$92,865 from membership fees and \$18,995 from voluntary contributions. Both deposits are for 360 days, maturing on 9 November 2009, and are earning 3.25% per annum.

The statements of activities and changes in net assets show how the Association's assets have continued to build up. Revenues during 2008 totaled \$38,098. If contributions for the AFE–ADB cocktail reception in Madrid last year are excluded, net revenues totaled \$24,658.

About 67% of those net revenues came from annual association fees, totaling \$16,562—compared with \$14,570 in the previous year. The increase in annual association fee revenue largely reflected the growth in the number of members—from 2,239 at the end of 2007 to 2,329 at the end of 2008. Since 1 October 2000, the annual association fee charged to new members has been \$20 for professional staff and \$5 for local staff. Members either pay these fees themselves or have authorized ADB

to make deductions from their pensions. In both cases, we check carefully to ensure that the fees are received, and follow up when payments are overdue.

With 106 new members joining AFE–ADB in 2008, compared with 103 in 2007, revenue from admission fees received during the year totaling \$2,415 was slightly higher than the admission fee revenue of \$2,400 received in 2007. The admission fee charged to new members since 1 October 2000 has been \$30 for professional staff and \$15 for local staff.

Voluntary contributions in 2008 totaled just under \$1,600, which was about \$150 less than the amount received in 2007.

Interest income in 2008 of about \$4,000 was \$332 higher than the previous year's interest income, largely because a full-year's interest was earned in 2008 on new amounts invested in time deposits in May 2007.

Expenses during 2008 totaled about \$20,400. If expenses for the AFE–ADB cocktail reception in Madrid last year are excluded, net expenses totaled \$6,793.

Net revenues in 2008 therefore exceeded net expenses by \$17,865.

AFE–ADB's expenses have been carefully controlled in the past to build the Association's sound financial position. It is clear that some of the funds that have accumulated in the membership fees accounts—at the end of 2008, \$28,890 was held as cash in bank and \$92,865 in a time deposit—could now be allocated specifically for uses that could help AFE–ADB expand its activities as well as encourage members to more actively support it. To this end a number of ideas have been suggested and some, which can be seen to represent the interests of the membership as a whole, are already being implemented. Because of its sensitive nature, however, this subject needs to be carefully considered. Some policy guidelines, which take into account comments and ideas so far received, are being developed. A draft of the guidelines will be circulated to country coordinators shortly.

The voluntary contributions accounts—a cash account (\$2,609 at the end of 2008) and a time deposit (\$18,995)—have so far been maintained to serve as an extraordinary reserve. The policy has been that only extraordinary expenses, if approved by the country coordinators and the AFE–ADB President, can be drawn from these accounts. This policy will be reviewed shortly.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent support that has been given by our staff at AFE–ADB headquarters in maintaining our financial records.

Auditor's Report

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES
OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2008 AND 2007

Independent Auditor's Report to the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of financial position and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets and cash flows present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank as at 31 December 2008 and 2007 and the results of its activities and changes in net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank and for distribution to its members and should not be used for any other purpose.



Makati City, Philippines
1 April 2009

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 and 2007

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION

The Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank ("AFE-ADB" or the "Association") was organized in 1986 primarily to enable the former employees of the Asian Development Bank ("ADB") to be in touch with their colleagues and be updated on the activities of ADB. On 28 February 1996, AFE-ADB was incorporated as a legal entity in Vanuatu. Membership is voluntary and open to all former employees of ADB, and spouses of deceased members. As of 31 December 2008, AFE-ADB has about 2,329 members (2,239 members in 2007).

Prior to 1 October 2000, professional and support staff were charged with lifetime membership fees of \$50 and \$20, respectively. Effective 1 October 2000, the lifetime membership fees were replaced by an admission fee of \$30 and annual association fee of \$20 for professional staff, and admission fee of \$15 and annual association fee of \$5 for support staff. The new annual association fee payment structure is mandatory for new members as of 1 October 2000. An annual administrative fee of \$20 for professional staff and \$5 for support staff is voluntary for the members who joined the Association prior to 1 October 2000 and who have paid a lifetime membership fee.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Presentation of the Financial Statements. The financial statements of AFE-ADB are presented on the basis of those for not-for-profit organizations.

Functional and Reporting Currency. The United States dollar is the functional and reporting currency representing the currency of the primary economic operating environment of AFE-ADB.

Translation of Currencies. Transactions denominated in other currencies are recognized at applicable exchange rate of the United States dollar at the time of the transactions. Assets and liabilities denominated in other currencies are translated into United States dollars at the end of the reporting period. The differences are recorded as net exchange gains or losses and reported as part of Other revenues or General and administrative expenses, respectively.

Investments. Time deposits are reported at cost, which is a reasonable estimate of fair value.

Receivables. Receivables are stated at their outstanding balance less allowance for doubtful accounts. Allowance for doubtful accounts is established for estimated losses on receivables based on the Association's collection experience and review of the status of the accounts.

Annual Association Fees. Annual association fees are allocated over a 12-month period and recognized as revenue when earned over the expired term. The unearned portion is lodged in Unearned annual association fees.

Admission Fees and Contributions for Social Events. Admission fees and contributions for social events are recognized as revenue when earned.

Voluntary Contributions. Voluntary contributions are recognized as revenue when received.

Interest Income. Interest income is recognized in the accounts when earned.

Expenses. Expenses, which are included in the Association's approved budget, are recognized when incurred.

Statement of Cash Flows. For the purpose of the statements of cash flows, AFE-ADB considers that its cash and cash equivalents are limited to "CASH IN BANK."

NOTE 3 - CASH IN BANK

The account includes savings and current dollar accounts and peso checking account.

Account No. 2 maintains the membership fees received, while Account No. 3 is maintained for voluntary contributions made by members.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 DECEMBER 2008 AND 2007
 (Expressed in United States Dollars)

	Notes	2008	2007
A S S E T S			
Current assets			
Cash in bank	3		
Account no. 2		\$ 28,890	\$ 19,716
Account no. 3		2,609	2,583
Peso checking account		2,626	939
Social function account		1,051	602
Pensioners' special fund (PSF) account		98	98
Total cash in bank		<u>35,274</u>	<u>23,938</u>
Investments	2,4		
Time deposits		111,860	107,869
Receivables, net	2,5	9,182	10,278
		<u>\$ 156,316</u>	<u>\$ 142,085</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities			
Due to officers	5	\$ 3,800	\$ 6,058
Accrued expenses	5	2,344	3,211
Unearned annual association fees	2	2,798	3,139
Total current liabilities		<u>8,942</u>	<u>12,408</u>
Net assets		<u>147,374</u>	<u>129,677</u>
		<u>\$ 156,316</u>	<u>\$ 142,085</u>

(The notes on pages 23–26 are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Peso checking account is used for sundry expenses paid in the same currency. The Social function account and PSF account represent funds relating to cocktail fees and pension work, respectively.

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS

All investments comprised holdings in time deposits denominated in United States dollar. All such investments are due within one year.

The annualized rate of return on the average investment balance held during the year based on the portfolio held at the beginning and end of each month was 3.601% (3.776% in 2007).

NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES, NET; ACCRUED EXPENSES; DUE TO OFFICERS

Receivables consist of the following:

	2008	2007
Receivable from bank subsidy	\$ 5,700	\$ 8,496
Receivable from members, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$5,365 in 2008 (\$4,544 in 2007)	1,187	1,219
Receivable from attendees of Annual General Meeting Cocktail Reception	1,820	-
Accrued interest receivable	475	563
	<u>\$ 9,182</u>	<u>\$ 10,278</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 AND 2007 (Expressed in United States Dollars)

	Notes	2008	2007
Revenues	1,2		
Annual association fees		\$ 16,562	\$ 14,570
Contributions for social events	6	13,440	7,600
Interest income		4,005	3,673
Admission fees		2,415	2,400
Voluntary contributions		1,594	1,747
Others		82	125
		<u>38,098</u>	<u>30,115</u>
Expenses	2		
Cocktail expenses	6	13,608	7,304
General and administrative expenses		5,972	3,014
Provision for doubtful accounts	5	821	1,031
		<u>20,401</u>	<u>11,349</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year		17,697	18,766
Net assets			
January 1		<u>129,677</u>	<u>110,911</u>
December 31		<u>\$ 147,374</u>	<u>\$ 129,677</u>

(The notes on pages 23–26 are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Receivable from bank subsidy consists of amounts to be reimbursed by ADB to the Association and to the Association's officers for expenses incurred on behalf of the Association. These expenses will be reimbursed by ADB based on the approved budget for such expenses.

The amount to be reimbursed to the Association of \$1,900 (\$3,867 in 2007) pertains to various expenses relating to chapter development and audit fees. The unpaid expenses are included as part of Accrued expenses in the statements of financial position.

The amount to be reimbursed to the Association's officers of \$3,800 (\$4,629 in 2007), which is shown as part of Due to officers in the statements of financial position, pertains to repatriation expenses, business travel, and accommodation incurred and initially advanced by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Association.

NOTE 6 - PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

The Association engages in certain public relations activities, such as cocktails, mainly for the benefit of its members. Cocktail expenses, which are incurred during the Association's annual general meetings and other special gatherings, are being funded by contributions from members. In accordance with the Association's policies, excess of revenues over expenses, if any, arising from the above transactions shall not be used for administrative expenses but for future public relations activities of the Association.

The Association held its 2008 annual general meeting in May 2008 in Madrid, Spain, while the 2007 annual general meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan in May 2007.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 AND 2007 (Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2008	2007
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses for the year	\$ 17,697	\$ 18,766
Adjustment for provision for doubtful accounts	821	1,031
Revenue before changes in operating assets and liabilities	<u>18,518</u>	<u>19,797</u>
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
Decrease (increase) in receivables	275	(3,879)
(Decrease) increase in:		
Due to officers	(2,258)	2,764
Accrued expenses	(867)	(620)
Unearned annual association fees	<u>(341)</u>	<u>931</u>
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>15,327</u>	<u>18,993</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investments	(111,860)	(213,869)
Maturities of investments	<u>107,869</u>	<u>177,093</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(3,991)</u>	<u>(36,776)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH IN BANK	11,336	(17,783)
CASH IN BANK		
January 1	<u>23,938</u>	<u>41,721</u>
December 31	<u>\$ 35,274</u>	<u>\$ 23,938</u>

(The notes on pages 23–26 are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Pension Report

Jill Gale de Villa

The status of the pension fund and the safety of our pensions is a matter of serious concern to us all, and these concerns have been voiced by numerous worried pensioners.

AFE Pension Council. To advise on and consider pension matters, AFE constituted the AFE Pension Council. The council currently comprises Randy Earman, Jan van Heeswijk, Rene Limjoco, Filo Pante, David Parker, Fred Pascual, Brahm Prakash, Tony Quila, Hans-Juergen Springer, Jill Gale de Villa, and Graham Walter, with Ivan Zimonyi as head. The council has met three times and discusses issues electronically as well.

Pension Concerns. Concerns that retiree–pensioners have regarding the status and security of our pensions were conveyed to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by M. Ikramullah Khan, AFE’s representative on the ADB Pension Committee, and on 7 October 2008 the secretary of ADB’s Pension Committee, Shyam Bajpai, sent a letter that sought to reassure staff and AFE members that their pensions are indeed safe.

Pension concerns were also discussed during the AFE team’s courtesy call on ADB’s President Kuroda and with United States (US) Alternate Executive Director Paul Curry and Executive Director Curtis Chin—the US chair is represented on ADB’s Pension Committee. The team also met with the Staff Association’s representatives to ADB’s Pension Committee, to discuss ways of (a) cooperating and coordinating on matters of mutual interest; (b) securing better and more timely information; and (c) improving representation on decision-making bodies.

Understanding the Reports. An initial thrust has been to gain a better understanding of the specifics of the language used in reports about the ADB pension plan and reports from the auditor, Watson Wyatt. To this end, the council met with representatives from the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD). BPMSD provided a useful PowerPoint presentation and explanations of the terminology used, and responded to questions asked. In May the council will meet with Philip Erquiaga, who has long been a member of the ADB’s Investment Committee for the pension.

Security of the Fund. During an AFE Pension Council meeting, BPMSD stressed that ADB is responsible for maintaining the fund in case of shortfalls and that the

recent increase in funding available to ADB indicates the institution’s viability. Council members appreciated this, but noted that there seems no way to enforce ADB’s commitments. BPMSD noted that in the event of a call on ADB’s capital, employee benefits would rank above other creditors (however, this needs to be checked).

Financial Status. Regarding the current status of the fund, one issue is how to evaluate the fund, whether on a “current” market value or on a moving average of several years, which is the practice of most funds. On the basis of a 5-year moving average, the fund was about 96.3% funded in 2008; but on a current market value basis, it might have been about 80% funded. If the markets rebound, so will the funding level; if not, then the funding level on the 5-year average will sink.

The 2007 Watson Wyatt report had recommended 2 levels of ADB funding (16% and 24%) to top up the shortfall. ADB initially elected the lower level, then increased it to 19% and put in an additional \$17 million. This brought the overall contribution close to 28%. The 2008 report again recommends significant increases, and the staff representatives on ADB’s Pension Committee have requested that the committee meet to discuss this.

A related issue is that ADB has cut benefits for new staff, including pension benefits. This leaves the plan with a cash-flow problem—premium inflows no longer cover payouts. ADB is considering how to handle this issue, but says it should not worry pensioners.

Legal Status of the Fund. Pension Council members inquired as to the legal status of the fund, and its separation or sequestration from other ADB funds. BPMSD noted the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a separation, a disadvantage being that ADB might no longer be responsible for topping up in case of a prolonged bad market and could not advance money in situations of cash-flow shortage, such as the current case; rather, the fund would have to sell assets. These matters and their legal implications are being further investigated.

Delayed Reporting. All agreed that efforts should be made to get information to pensioners more speedily, especially pertaining to ADB’s internal processes of submitting relevant information to Watson Wyatt so they can finalize the report.

Discretionary Benefits. How ADB can maintain the guaranteed high interest payments on the discretionary benefits given the very low interest available on the markets today is a matter of interest.

Representation on ADB’s Pension Committees. Currently, AFE has only one representative on ADB’s Pension

Committee and none on the investment and administration committees, which are under the overall Pension Committee. Staff members have one representative and one alternate on the Pension Committee and none on the Investment Committee. Given that the number of pensioners and the number of staff members is reaching parity, there is a case for increased pensioner representation. At the World Bank, pensioners are represented on both committees—investment and administration.

Health Insurance Report

Jill Gale de Villa



Health insurance, its availability and terms, is a major concern for all, and the AFE team of Hans-Juergen Springer, David Parker, and myself, remain actively involved in this matter on behalf of former employees. The AFE Health Insurance Committee was established to discuss major issues and policy matters relating to

the Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP). The committee currently comprises Lourdes de Belen, Ted Breckner, Evelyn Go, Fred Mesch, Hans-Juergen Springer, and Axel Weber, with myself as head. The committee discusses issues primarily electronically. We welcome inquiries from all medical plan participants and want to be kept abreast of issues pertaining to the insurance and its administration and implementation. Matters currently discussed by the committee and by the AFE team include (1) difficulties liaising with medical services in the United States (US) and with Vanbreda, (2) the relationship of Vanbreda insurance to other health insurance and discounts, (3) claims and premiums, (4) long-term care insurance, (5) the use of generic medicines, (6) the Vanbreda contract with ADB, (7) resumption of the tripartite AFE–BPMSD–Staff Council committee on health, and (8) retirees’ access to GMIP information. AFE met with Vanbreda and BPMSD staff on 2 April 2009, in the first of two yearly meetings, and discussed items (1)–(5). Vanbreda’s

presentation at that meeting will be available on our website later.

1. Regarding difficulties liaising with medical services in the US, we have asked Vanbreda to see if something easy to use, such as a “card” similar to those provided by US insurers, could be made available by the US group with which Vanbreda deals. Vanbreda is looking into this.

Regarding difficulties communicating with Vanbreda, they want feedback on any such issues, and so do we so that we can more effectively take the matters up with ADB and Vanbreda.

2. Regarding our GMIP being “secondary insurance,” senior citizen and other discounts and insurance (including, for example, Medicare in the US) are taken before Vanbreda calculates its discount. Hence, if one spends P1,000, and the senior citizen discount is 20%, then Vanbreda calculates its payment as 75% of the remaining P800, not of the full P1,000.
3. Claims soared last year by 26%, for both current and former staff and families. We can therefore expect an increase in premiums. ADB is calculating this increase and will inform us in due course. The delay results from the need to calculate the effect over several currencies and from changes in the staff complement ADB-wide as well as among former staff. A guesstimate is an increase of 10–15% in our premiums next year.

In previous years, when premiums exceeded claims, GMIP participants were given a refund. The last refund was made in 2002. In 2005–2007 premium increases exceeded claims, and the insurers kept the surplus. Negotiations are now underway to establish a “reserve fund” when such surplus occurs, to be used to smoothen fluctuations in the differences between premiums and claims. This means that in “good” years (when claims are lower than anticipated, leaving a surplus for the insurers), part of the surplus will go into a fund to help offset “bad” years, rather than all of it going to the insurers. My guess is that the effort to create this fund is going to mean our premiums for the next year or two will be on the high side—although nobody in ADB has suggested this.

4. The offer of long-term care insurance is a very welcome initiative by ADB and we sincerely thank Cristina Keppler and BPMSD for working with Vanbreda to develop this proposal. In response to our request for added time for retirees to consider the merits of this offer, Vanbreda has agreed to extend the registration deadline to end-July.
5. Use of generics has taken hold in the US and is saving money for those who purchase them and find the

insurance paying 100%, and through premiums being lower than what they otherwise would be. However, the use of generics has not taken much hold in the Philippines and some other countries. Through the website and newsletter, we intend to encourage greater use of generics by disseminating information about them. We have also had complaints that Vanbreda is not aware of generics in all countries and rejects some claims for them. Vanbreda is working to remedy this, and we want feedback on incidents pertaining to this problem.

- 6–7. Given increasing medical costs globally, it is important to discuss with ADB major issues impacting the GMIP and premiums. The current 3-year contract with Vanbreda is valid for 2009–2011, and we should already be discussing how expenditure under the

health insurance scheme could be reduced and better balanced or more equitable provisions introduced for the succeeding contract. Therefore, the committee on health matters comprising BPMMSD, the Staff Council, and AFE–ADB, which held a series of meetings in early 2006, should be reconstituted.

8. Retired GMIP participants do not have access to the detailed provisions and explanations of our medical coverage that are available to staff on the ADB portal. We will work to make this information available through the ADB alumni and AFE websites.

We welcome your comments on any aspect of the health insurance—please contact Jill Gale de Villa, Hans-Juergen Springer, David Parker, or any member of the AFE Health Insurance Committee.

BPMMSD Statements on the Staff Retirement Plan and Post-Retirement Insurance Plans

Staff Retirement Plan (SRP). There were two important meetings concerning the SRP in 2008. In July, a Pension Committee meeting was held. In that meeting ADB's budgeted contribution rate of 16% was approved. In November, there was an informal Board seminar to discuss the situation of the pension plan in light of the global financial crisis.

BPMMSD continues to work with the Office of Information Systems and Technology in its effort to streamline processes for retirees and beneficiaries. Part of this effort is the self-service facility, which aims to improve the timeliness and level of service for ADB retirees and beneficiaries.

- The online pay slip (pension statement) was rolled out to retirees and beneficiaries in September 2008. The facility allows retirees to view and print their pay slips. The availability of the pay slips online translates to savings in ADB mailing costs and staff time in responding to retirees' queries and/or data requests.
- Planned enhancements include retiree access to the online certification request system and discretionary benefits self-service.

The results of the actuarial valuation of the Plan as of 30 September 2008 show that the Plan continues to be in a contingent deficit position, given a fund rate of return

of -20.4% on a market value basis for the 2008 Plan fiscal year. The valuation results will be published in the SRP Annual Report later this year, which will be made available to participants through the Staff Development and Benefits online and the ADB Alumni Portal.

Although ADB's 2008 budgeted contribution rate to the SRP was 16% of participants' salaries, ADB contributed an additional lump sum of USD17.03 million at the end of 2008 increasing the actual contribution as of 31 December 2008 to 27% of participants' salaries.

Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP). Premiums and stop-loss limits for retirees did not change for 2008 except for the corresponding Philippine peso stop-loss limits for professional staff.

Post-Retirement Group Life Insurance Plan (PRGLIP).

To improve the sustainability of the plan, ADB negotiated a reduction in the premium rates and an enrollment opportunity for retirees who left ADB on or after 1 January 2004 who did not sign up for coverage then. During the special enrollment period, 53 or 17% of 313 retirees enrolled in the plan. The reduced rate took effect on 1 October 2008. The plan's sustainability will continue to be reviewed.

Bali Reunion

Meetings and Cocktails

Anisa Yacub–Romero (ADB 1968–1978) and Jill Gale de Villa

Arguably the most famous island on earth, beautiful exotic Bali, was the setting of the 42nd ADB Annual Meeting on May 2–5, 2009. It was also the 23rd gathering of the Association of Former Employees of ADB (AFE–ADB).

AFE Activities. AFE–ADB’s activities at ADB’s Annual Meeting in Bali commenced with a meeting of Country Coordinators at 9 am. Discussions at the meeting were open and productive (pp. 10–14).

After a brief respite for lunch, we proceeded to the Annual General Meeting, chaired by newly elected President Bong-Suh Lee. Discussions at the meeting proceeded logically from those at the country coordinators’ meeting and again were interactive (pp. 15–29).

The evening cocktails, which capped our activities, had been moved to the airconditioned Portrait Room for comfort—with many thanks to Simon Baily-Gibson for suggesting and facilitating the last minute change. The Westin did a stellar job of providing ample good food and excellent service. President and Mrs Kuroda joined us, and President Kuroda addressed the attendees (p. 9). All present had a very nice time indeed, touching base, catching up,



and discussing affairs of AFE, ADB, and the world at large. The list of people who attended the at least one of the three functions is on p. 37.

ADB Annual Meeting Festivities. The opening of this year’s meeting was quite different, choreographed to blend the modern and the traditional, the vast wealth of Indonesia’s diversity, the imaginative with the real, all very impressive indeed. The popular and influential President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, flew in from Jakarta to address the gathering. The speeches were followed by a short cultural presentation in which Indonesia surprised and delighted the ADB contingent with a song especially and specifically composed for the occasion. It was titled “From Asia to the World,” and had the line “from ADB to the children of Asia,” a touching tribute much applauded and appreciated.

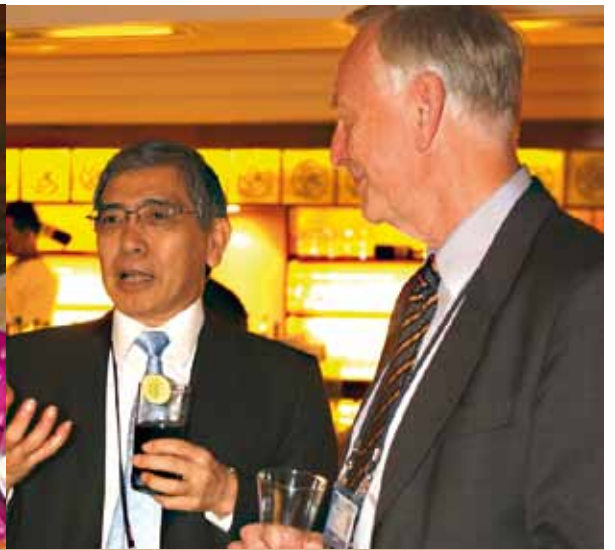
The social highlights were the ADB President’s cocktails at the Westin, where thousands gathered to meet, greet, and network, and the reception at Garuda Wisno Kencana Cultural Park, hosted by the Minister of Finance, the Honorable Sri Mulyani Indrawati. This spectacular event was held at a limestone quarry converted to an amphitheater, with dignitaries at tables in front and a stage for performances ranging from Indonesia’s most acclaimed composer and divas to 350 men and boys flowing down stairs and onto the stage to perform the Balinese Kecak. The evening was capped by the new ADB theme song again, and very nice fireworks. The rains held off just until the end, then we left in a hurry in an attempt to stay dry.











Savoring Bali

Anisa Yacub–Romero and Jill Gale de Villa



When it was announced last year in Madrid that Bali would be the site of the next annual meeting, not many were interested in going. AFE members assumed that since Bali is in Indonesia, another country in Asia, it would be just like the Philippines. Anisa first went to Bali in 1992 as a volunteer with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia; she took a break from the elections they were conducting. She enjoyed every moment of the visit—swimming, snorkelling, beachcombing, sightseeing, basking in its languorous relaxed atmosphere. So when another opportunity to see Bali came up, she did not hesitate to seize it.

The only thing Bali has that is similar to the Philippines is the climate and the physical appearance of the people. After all, we are Asians, and so we tend to look alike. But the art and culture, the traits and habits of the Balinese, the religion and politics are totally different. Although Indonesia is considered a Muslim country, Hinduism is the predominant religion in Bali (about 70% of the population practice it)

with a smattering of Moslems, Buddhists, and Christians. So the roads and fields are dotted with Hindu temples depicting scenes from the Hindu epics, “Mahabharata” and “Ramayana.” You don’t encounter giant malls touting big sales in populous areas in Bali. You shop at the markets or little boutiques and stores. Haggling is the way of shopping.

Tours were among the highlights of the Bali experience, and several were offered, gratis, thanks to the Indonesian government.

The Kintamani tour took us through the countryside





On the shore is a rock housing for a snake reputed to be 400 years old—although the guide thought maybe it was the offspring of a snake that had lived 400 years ago. As we alit from the bus, Y-Chie Primo turned her ankle and nevertheless soldiered on in pain. We walked down to see Tanah Lot, and Jill decided she would indeed pat the snake and visit the fresh water spring. The men onshore said the water would be up to her knees. But someone forgot to say the waves would be higher, and she returned with skin liberally splashed with fresh water that was supposed to make her young again, and butt liberally splashed with salt water that meant she had to buy a new pair of pants or continue wet. We hurried (and Y-Chie limped, supported by Cesar Juan) through the shops (too bad—the prices were right!) and on to Mengwi, another temple—this one more serene and in a wooded park, before going back to the convention center.

For Jill, special moments included walking at dawn along the beach behind the hotel. For 3 km, much of the way was paved with bricks, and the sunrise was always lovely. And then, after the events, she had 2 days in delightful Ubud—Bali's heart of the arts.



to lunch overlooking a volcano with a large lake in its crater. En route we stopped at (1) a wood carving enterprise to watch the woodcarvers and see their detailed products and learn about the wood they used to produce the carvings, (2) a silver shop to see filigree work in progress and purchase jewelry, and (3) a farm to see and purchase various spices.

The name "Bali" intrigued Anisa, who asked our guide about its origin during a bus ride to Kintamani. He said it came from the word "wali" which means "offering". When immigrants arrived from other islands in Indonesia they found the natives worshipping and honouring their gods by making colourful offerings of fresh fruits and leaves. Over time the "W" in "Wali" evolved to become "B," thus creating "Bali." To this day, tourists and visitors still see tiny bamboo baskets of offerings in temples, shops, and residences during their many festivals. On May 3 the islanders observed the Festival of the Sun.

The Tanah Lot tour brought us to two temples. Tanah Lot is fascinating because it is a small island just offshore, with fresh water coming out of the rocks just above the tide line.

Participants in the AFE–ADB 23rd Annual General Meeting and Social Functions

Guests of Honor:
ADB President
Haruhiko Kuroda
and Mrs Kumiko Kuroda

AFE–ADB Members

Australia

Andrea and Dennis Riley
Robert Byrnes
Peter and Ngoc-Chan Carroll
Alan and Esha Roy
Abbas and Patricia Talib
Louis and Tshyu Yung Wong

France

Sylvia and Alain Dick

Germany

Uwe and Erika Henrich
Günther and Helga Schulz

India

Lata Deshpande
Satish and Kalyani Jha

Indonesia

Edi and Tuti Witoyo Kaswadi
Dimiyati and Nora Nangju
Roslaini and Abdullah Rasuman

Augustinus and Grace Rumansara
Soegito and Wisnosari Sastramidjojo
Moehamad and Rochana
Soerakoesoemah

Japan

Tomihiko and Hisako Furuta
Eiji Kobayashi

Korea, Republic of

Bong-Suh Lee
Keon-Woo Lee
Shin Dong Kyu

Malaysia

Dang Fook Lee

New Zealand

Ron and Keith Hamilton
John Colin Pratt

Pakistan

Naseer Ahmad

Philippines

Catalina Blanco
Maria Guia and Manuel Cabugao
Andrea Carlos
Gamaliel and Victoria De Armas
Jill Gale de Villa
Elvira Estavillo
Cesar Juan

Natividad Medina
David Parker and Arnie Suarez
Anisa Romero
Leodegario Saet
Hans-Juergen Springer and Elizabeth Reyes
Victor and Lily The
Robert and Celia May

Sri Lanka

Ranjith and Malkanthi Wirasinha

Switzerland

Ramon and Pilar Gavinio

United Kingdom

Adrian and Su Davis
David and Punnee Taylor
William Thomson

United States

Conchita Acupanda
Anita Butial
Nona and Leoncio Dimagiba
Guillerma Dumalag
Maria Luisa Hakuta
Precinia Lizarondo
Normita Tricia Marquez
Barry and Jacqueline Metzger
Y-Chie Primo
Warren Evans

ADB Staff Members

Simon Baily-Gibson, Social Events Officer and Florenda Baily-Gibson
Torben Bellers, Alternate Executive Director and Phuong Doan
Phil Bowen, Executive Director and Julie Bowen
Philip Daltrop, Auditor General
Robert Dawson, The Secretary
Sheila de Guzman, Executive Assistant
Jill Drilon, Lead Professional (Conferences)
Richard Edwards, Alternate Executive Director
Klaus Gerhaeusser, Director General and Verena Gerhaeusser
Shuichi Hosoda, Chief Advisor to the President
Jeremy Hovland, General Counsel
Siew Juan Aw, Alternate Executive Director
Kyung-Hoh Kim, Executive Director and Young-Jin Park
Ashok Lahiri, Executive Director
Jong-Wha Lee, Head, OREI and Kyung-Hee Kim
Fangyu Liu, Alternate Executive Director

Bindu Lohani, Vice President, Finance and Administration
Marita Magpili-Jimenez, Executive Director and Eligio Jimenez
Michele Miari Fulcis, Executive Director
Kiyori Minami, Advisor to the President
Rajat Nag, Managing Director General and Shikha Nag
Ann Quon, OIC and Senior Director, DER
H. Satish Rao, Director General and Halady Purba Rao
Masakazu Sakaguchi, Executive Director
Kazu Sakai, Director General
Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Vice President, Knowledge Management
and Sustainable Development
Siraj Shamsuddin, Alternate Executive Director
Masayuki Tamagawa, Director General and Makiko Sakai
Arjun Thapan, Director General
Yasuto Watanabe, Alternate Executive Director

Chapter News

Canada: Toronto

Nida Rodrigo (ADB 1976–1996)

August 15, 2009 was not just any regular sunny and happy day for ADB Torontonians After the frightening thunder/lightning storms the past few days and a very, very wet July, the heavens opened up and gave us a glorious day for our potluck picnic. It was really a day of FUN, FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP in capital letters.

Linda Vilchez Trabulsi graciously hosted the event in her beautiful home. Nes Diasanta gave us three surprise raffle works of art in acrylic—the ADB/Philippine/Canadian Flags in canvas.

Attendees were Linda Trabulsi, Lea Gojo, Leah, Ernie, and Taro Flores, Paz and Ed Ravadilla, Chito Darvin, Irene Sarsonas, Celine and Leo Abada, Janet and Neil Huab and their three kids, Malou Trasporto, Nymia and Fred Meneses, Nida and Tito Jugo, Rose and Nes Diasanta and grandkid, Ollie Nogard, and Guia Estabillo.



Japan

Hans-Juergen Springer

Japanese former ADB staff members gather annually in groups formed around their ADB president. The 25 May meeting in the posh Tokyo Hilton Hotel involved members who had been at ADB during President Fujioka's time—in the meeting's title, "Fujinokai," "Kai" means gathering and "Fuji" refers to former AFE President Masao Fujioka. About 20 people attended the lively affair.

Mr Fujioka opened the gathering with a warm welcome to all including myself—I had come from Manila to attend. Mr Fujioka, still the fit, smartly-dressed gentleman that he has always been, talked about his recent travels, which he said were not as frequent as they had been before. He also passed around photographs of his outing to Tokushima on Shikoku Island where Awaodori dancing takes place every year in August—a most enjoyable form of street dancing in colorful costumes in which Mr Fujioka participates.



Everyone present, spouses included, talked about their activities in the past year—Kunio Takase is still working on agricultural development in Africa; some are looking after ageing parents; several are teaching; and some are enjoying their retirement without other major commitments.

After much laughter over glasses of wine and delectable food, the Fujinokai dinner closed in time for everyone to catch a train or bus to reach home not too late in the evening.



Philippines

Gam de Armas

The Philippine Chapter committee tasked to prepare for this year's annual get-together met on June 11 at the house of committee chair Lita Gamboa to discuss initial plans and schedule. Also present were Gam de Armas, chapter coordinator; Rosie Luistro; Ophie Sta. Ana; Danny Munoz; Carmen Bontia; and Liza Vitangcol.

November 26, a Thursday, was chosen as the date for this year's affair, to be held at the EDR with the theme Unity/Harmony. Attire will be smart casual with the color motif black and white. Registration will start at 4:00 pm, to be followed by the business meeting at 5:00 pm. Buffet dinner will start at 6:00 pm. Group presentations will follow after dinner, spiced by raffle draws for valuable door prizes, games, and other surprise awards. Emcees for the evening will be Rosie Luistro and Danny Muñoz.

Gam took the opportunity to set in motion the planned formation of area groups to facilitate reaching out to



inactive members; foster closer interaction among members; and encourage more members in the biggest chapter of AFE, with 645 registered members, to be active and involved in chapter and AFE activities.

Greater Metro Manila, which is home to more than 90% of Philippine Chapter members, was divided into five groups:

- A. Manila–Mandaluyong–San Juan or West Group;
- B. Quezon City–Caloocan–Malabon–Navotas–Bulacan or North Group;
- C. Antipolo–Cainta–Marikina–Pasig–Pateros–Taguig–Taytay–San Mateo–Montalban–Binangonan or East Group;
- D. Makati–Pasay or Central Group; and
- E. Parañaque–Muntinlupa–Las Piñas–Cavite or South Group.

Since the survey conducted during the annual get-together in 2008 yielded few volunteers to head the subchapters or groups, names were volunteered by the committee members. Gam then talked to each of the selected group coordinators to get their agreement and to select assistants or cocoordinators. A meeting of all group coordinators and the 2009 Get-together Committee was then held at the AFE–ADB office on August 12 to discuss the individual group presentations in the annual get-together of the Philippine Chapter on November 26, and to provide help to the group coordinators in organizing and creating their respective group directories.

Group Coordinators:

- A. West Group – Eva Barcelona, Julie Guevarra, Beth Cristobal
- B. North Group – Amador Astudillo, Enrique Bernal
- C. East Group – Raquel Cabilles, Susan Padolina, Josie Cataluña
- D. Central Group – Rory Aragon, Eva Relova
- E. South Group – Lita Gamboa, Rosie Luistro, Ophie Sta. Ana

Southern California

Yollie Laurel

Members of the “ex-ADBfriends” Yahoo group in Southern California had an enjoyable summer picnic at Schabarum Regional Park in Rowland Heights on July 25, 2009. AFE-ADB California (USA Chapter) coordinator Ben (Baggy) Bagaoisan and wife Bing were the early risers who secured the Oak Tree Section - the best spot in the park.

Present were: Letty Gomez, past coordinator who continues to help despite attending to her business, and Manny Gomez; Alice Santos Olsen and Jim Olsen; Vhee and Chito Martin; Art and Tessie Aquino; Bert Gesmundo; King Vergara; Alma Francisco; Nelia Kalagayan and daughter; May Santos-Tigas, husband, daughter, and mother; Geni Funtanilla; Norman “Boyet” and Dina Pamintuan with granddaughter; Romy Domingo; my ever-supportive Jim Houtby; Pura Sy Gutierrez; Julie Carabeo; and other friends.

It was a beautiful Saturday, and the day’s activities went on smoothly without...oh, no, I was going to say without incident, but that wasn’t quite true. During last year’s summer picnic at the same park, I tumbled to the ground when the chair I was sitting on flipped backward. This time, while we were posing for a group photo, a bee stung me on the back, perhaps upset that it couldn’t dive into my special pork ribs barbeque.

Then it was time to thank God for all the blessings we have received. Vhee Martin said grace and thanked those who brought food. There was more than enough food, so everyone had take-home food bags at the end of the day. It was nonstop pick and eat for all, what with all the goodies laid on the table all day: the popular adobo; lumpiang

shanghai; laing; fried shrimps; crispy dried fish someone called “jeprox”; kare-kare; lots of steamed rice; ginataang halo-halo with pandan; turon con langka; sweet pan de sal; lychees with gulaman; ensaymada especial; and lots of chips that were barely touched due to the abundance of Pinoy all-time favorite dishes.

Nelia Kalagayan’s “sinaing na bangus” was a treat for those who can eat only fish. Bert, a diabetic, couldn’t resist his cravings for sweets, so he satisfied himself with sweet mangoes. It was a “no man is an island” gathering—everyone showed care for each other. At the end of the day, Baggy gave me an unopened bottle of patis, commenting, “Wala niyan sa Hesperia.”

The Olsens shared a bottle of Chardonnay with those who wanted to complement the sumptuous buffet lunch with fine wine. We shared stories to catch up with what we had missed the past months. May Santos-Tigas shared her line of natural supplements for physical and financial health and vitality. We also had kids, who enjoyed running round the park and posing for pictures.

Amidst the merriment, we had time to reflect on the lives of some of our “exADBfriends” who are no longer with us. Pura, who is ably helping Baggy in coordinating the SoCal events, wrote in her final reminder about the picnic, “Life is uncertain, is unpredictable. Since we left ADB, we get news of former colleagues and friends only when they have passed away. They were not just colleagues, some of them have become a part of our “growing up” years—and therefore a part of our lives—a family... ”

Before parting, the group agreed to hold the Christmas year-end party on December 12, 2009, possibly at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Los Angeles or Baldwin Park. Calling “exADBfriends” in Southern California and other former ADB staff that may be in the area: you are invited to join this year-end party.



Tashkent 2010

AGM 2010

ADB's 43rd annual meeting will be held in Tashkent on 1–4 May 2010 at the Expo Center. Plan early to attend, especially given the need for visas, and consider some after-meeting sightseeing along the famed silk road.

Attire in Uzbekistan is conservative—no sleeveless tops or shorts.

Tashkent

Jill Gale de Villa, with input from Christian Peter Darjes (ADB 1982–2002) and images from Robert Dawson

Some of us are familiar with Uzbekistan; others haven't much idea, beyond knowing that it's one of the "stans" of Central Asia. But there must be something special about Uzbekistan, because at least two of ADB's former country representatives—Peter Darjes and Sean O'Sullivan—remain very fond indeed of the place.

ADB's 2010 annual meeting will be in Tashkent, in a facility built for such meetings, but seldom used. For many AFE members, this presents an opportunity to get a bit off the beaten track and explore.

Tashkent has the only metro system in Central Asia.



(Astana's and Almaty's are being constructed) and the largest city square (Independence Square) in the former Soviet Union. The square once held the tallest statue of Lenin (30 m) in the Soviet Union. Lenin was replaced in 1992 by a globe showing a map of Uzbekistan.

Tashkent has long been a crossroads for trade. Much of old Tashkent has disappeared due to modernization and destruction from earthquakes. However, a bit of the old city remains. Other points of interest include the

- 16th century Kukeldash Madrassah, which is being restored as a museum;
- Kaffali-Shash Mausoleum;
- State Art Museum, which houses a collection of paintings, ceramics, and the Bukharian royal robes;
- Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts, which exhibits embroidered wall hangings and reproduction antique jewelry;



- Moyie Mubarek Library Museum, preserving the world's oldest Quran, from the 7th century.
- History Museum of the People of Uzbekistan, with artefacts from Zoroastrian and Buddhist times, and exhibits relating to the conquest of the khanates of Central Asia by the Russians and to the first president of the independent Uzbek Republic, Islam Karimov;
- Amur Timur Museum, with murals depicting Timur; and
- Tashkent Gallery of Modern Art.

Muslim visitors may wish to visit the mosque in the Hast Imam area of the city. The library there contains the remaining fragments of the world's first Quran, written only 19 years after Muhammad's death. A number of religious sites are open only to Muslims.

Shoppers may wish to investigate the

- Aleyski Bazaar, which is pretty much in the center of the city—a huge bazaar famous for its selection of fruits, vegetables, Russian food items including caviar, etc. (dried and fresh);
- Choryu Bazaar, an older bazaar with many items;
- Human House, for handmade crafts and clothing and ceramics at very reasonable prices—a nonprofit effort to help provide income to the craftspeople, who are often from remote and very poor villages;
- Caravan Art Gallery, for high quality handicrafts;
- Abdul Xasim Mosque, for lacquer paintings with oriental motifs; and
- Rakhimov Ceramics Studios, Kukchka Dabaza 15, by appointment only.

The first records of settlement in the city now called Tashkent date from the second century BC, when Chinese sources called it Yuni. In 262 BC, a Persian source referred to the Tashkent oasis as Chach. Later the word "kand" (city) was added, so it became Cachkand. The name Tashkent appeared in Turkic sources of the 9th–12th centuries. In 15th century Russia, the city was famous as Tashkura.



Timur (known in the west as Tamerlane) is Uzbekistan's best-known figure and national hero. Timur was born in 1336 to a Tartar military family. He was called "Timur the Lame" because of partial paralysis in his left side, resulting from an injury incurred while raiding sheep from a neighboring tribe. Nevertheless, he rose to become a great military commander and partly restored the great Mongol empire. In 1402, his empire stretched from India to the Mediterranean. By 1404, Timur's depredations were so widely feared that he was receiving contributions from the Pope and the Sultan of Egypt. He died in 1405, and his sons immediately set to fighting over the empire.

Uzbekistan and the Silk Road

Jill Gale de Villa, with input from Christian Peter Darjes and images from Uzbekistan's tourism material

Beyond Tashkent, along the ancient Silk Road, lie several interesting places to visit.

- **Samarkand**, Tamerlane's capital, is on UNESCO's list of "most important historical places" and has wonderful architecture dating from the 14th and later centuries, and (just beyond the city) an archaeological site and exhibits from the 6th–13th centuries.
- **Bukhara** is well known for its hat-topped minarets—the "hats" being storks' nests. The tallest minaret in Uzbekistan—47 m—is in Bukhara.



The city has long been famous for its mosques, madrassahs, caravansaries, and markets, many of which have been preserved.

- **Nukus** is a relatively new urban development near the Aral Sea. It is famous for its Savitsky Museum, which makes the visit to the otherwise nondescript town a must. The museum houses the second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art in the world.
- **Khiva**, a living town–museum 2500 years old, has ancient architectural masterpieces kept safe in massive outer walls.
- **Termez**, on the border of Afghanistan, over 2500 years old, has remains of ancient adobe architecture and remnants of the many civilizations that influenced the area.
- The fertile **Fergana Valley**, which has nourished a succession of peoples and civilizations, has long been known for its silk, still woven and dyed according to ancient techniques. It is also famous for its wonderful ceramics, for which the center is the town of Rishtan. The valley is also known as the home of Bobur, the famous epic poet, and a breeding ground for swift, strong horses.
- **Shahrisabz** is Tamerlane’s home and an architectural masterpiece.



One could spend several days after the meeting exploring the silk road. Information on tour providers is given on the AFE website (www.afe-adb). Given the red tape involved in securing visas for visiting Uzbekistan—early planning is in order.



People, Places, and Passages

From New Zealand to Classical Greece

Gordon Fox (ADB 1992–2002)



In early April Victor and Allison Diem and Gordon and Rosemary Fox went on a study tour of historical sites in Greece. Some 30 people participated in the 5-week tour, organised by Victoria University of Wellington and led by Emeritus Professor of Classics Chris Dearden. In preparation, they attended a series of university lectures on Greek history and culture, focussing on ancient Greece and on the Roman Empire. They also attended a basic course in Modern Greek language. They are members of the Wellington Classical Association.

The tour visited more than 40 historical sites. These included well-known classical sites in Athens, Delphi, Olympia, and Ancient Corinth, and also several lesser known sites, including Pella (Alexander the Great's capital of Macedonia), Dodona (where there was once an ancient oracle of Zeus), and sites on the islands of Aegina and Santorini. Bronze Age—Mycenaean and Minoan—sites on the mainland and in Crete were included. Slightly more "modern" sites included Byzantine churches in Thessaloniki, cliff-top monasteries at Meteora, and the mountainside palaces and churches of Mystras.

The Foxes have been on other, similar, Victoria University study tours—to classical sites in Turkey in 2004, to Greece

and Italy in 2006, and to ancient sites in Egypt last year. After the study tour to Egypt they branched out on their own to visit ancient Greek and Roman sites in Libya and Tunisia, including major sites at Cyrene and Leptis Magna and the amphitheatre at El Djem. As well as being fine opportunities for educational travel, the study tours also offer opportunities for serious study. Next year Victor and Allison plan to travel on a proposed Victoria University of Wellington study tour to Egypt.

From Bali to Kabul

Ron Hamilton (ADB 1981–1986)



It was with regret that I had to cut short my participation in the Bali annual meeting. Essentially, the AFE cocktail party was it! So, while Leith joined Mal and Ranjith Wirasinha on one of the Accompanying Persons' tours, I quietly packed my bags, "folded my tent," and headed to the Denpasar Airport to join a World Bank assignment in Kabul.

Afghanistan was a country I had long wanted to visit. The closest I had previously made it was to the frontier barrier in the Khyber Pass in the course of a Board tour to Pakistan in 1981. Until, this year, I had to depend on photographs and books about this amazing country.

It is not an easy country to visit—getting from Dubai to Kabul was logistically challenging. But flying over the magnificent peaks and seemingly arid valleys, with only patches of green vegetation, was a wonderful introduction to the country. I should add that I didn't really visit Afghanistan; I visited Kabul. Due to the personal safety situation, I was unable to leave the city confines. Indeed, when I wasn't in the World Bank "campus" I was in a ministry or an armoured SUV. Arriving at Kabul when the President was leaving introduced me to traffic jams unlike any seen in Auckland! I lost count of the number of Humvees in the traffic—each with a heavy machine gun on the top! (Such a "Hummer" is what I would like for going to Auckland's supermarket car parks!)

Enconced in Guest House #2, my view was, over the high walls of packed bags of earth and sand with rolls of

razor-wire, a number of steep peaks with, to the South, snow-covered mountains. Expressions of interest in seeing the mountains were greeted with, “No, as bad things can happen there!” I have to say that no “bad things” happened to me when I was in Kabul, such was the seriousness with which the World Bank addressed each person’s security. We each had to travel with a dedicated cell phone and a two-way radio. Occasional security alerts were texted on the former.

Travelling to and from meetings provided scenes of huge contradiction. Collapsing mud-brick houses and buildings are interspersed with medium-rise concrete block buildings and the occasional high-rise modern office building. An up-market hotel, with an exterior slightly reminiscent of a Foreign Legion fort, took up one block. The streets were always busy, with people in local attire, representative of the regions they came from, mixing with business-suited people and women in burqas. The last were the clever ones, as the air was generally full of fine dust, kicked up by the vehicles. Each corner, it seemed, was protected by armed policemen or soldiers. The latter were in significant numbers near the various embassies. And then there were the occasional donkeys and goats, all trotting alongside the dense traffic.

Close to the hills, the remains of the old city wall showed against the skyline. Again, not a place to visit, as “bad things” might happen. One had to wonder why the houses clinging to the steep hillsides didn’t slide down them. And the brown Kabul River wound its way through the city centre. An incongruous sight was the collection of old Russian aircraft, partly hidden behind a high wall—another place I was not able to visit. The reason for constraint on personal travel was due more to the crime potential and less to the threat of militants. And yet, as we left the Ministry of Finance at dusk one night, two low-flying helicopters dropped anti-missile flares as they curved into a nearby landing zone.

I was driven up one of the in-city hills one afternoon. From there, my image of Kabul changed. From this hill, Kabul clearly had many trees and green spaces, as well as modern buildings. I was told that, prior to the 1970s, Kabul was a very attractive city, and, from my viewpoint, I could see why. On the other hand, the “new city” to the north comprised low, dusty, earth-covered dwellings and walled gardens, with the occasional medium-rise modern office or apartment block sticking up here and there. The snow-covered mountains—many kilometers away—seemed to loom closely over the city in the rain-cleared air. The remains of a rusting Russian tank were the only sour note in the view.

I was pleased to have finally reached Kabul. Being confined to the city meant that I couldn’t trace the route taken by the unfortunate Lord Elphinstone in the 1842 retreat or see the rural sights fictional hero Sir Harry Flashman might have seen. But it was a great taste of the magic of this wonderful, complex, and picturesque country and its peoples.

Imelda in Canada

Lou Angelo (ADB 1981–1986)

In April 2008 Imelda Razal and her husband, Manuel, a business analyst at Metrobank, went to Canada to “see what’s out there.” Imelda was a senior funding assistant in charge of debt service payments of ADB bonds and swaps (derivatives) in the Treasury Department. On arrival in Toronto, they had no welcoming relatives, only a few referrals from friends back home. A referral to an exADBan gave them temporary housing. It was spring but to them it was too cold for comfort. Yet they were enthralled by the breathtaking beauty of the tulips and trees exploding with cherry, apricot, and apple blossoms. So this is Canada, they said, “what a green and verdant country.”

As independent professional class immigrants, the government was interested in their progress and tracked their job search efforts through an online system. Imelda and Manuel were surprised at the number of federal and local agencies helping new immigrants.

With only a couple of weeks to rest and “look around,” the couple tackled their job search by going first to the town libraries (fantastic facilities and all that free technology to the public, they gasped!) to research local companies and borrow books on interview and presentation skills. They studied the Canadian job market and watched TV to catch the accent and note what was going on in the country. Job and interview tips came from one-on-one mentoring from human resources and business managers of big banks assigned to them by COSTI, a government-funded agency helping newcomers match their professional skills with the requirements of employers on “Bay Street,” Toronto’s version of Wall Street.



They applied with Toronto recruiting agencies and went to preliminary interviews. They organized in their job search, diligently followed leads, and were rewarded with early interviews. They had many interviews and felt each taught them how to prepare better for the next one. They decided to cast their job search wider by applying for jobs nationwide.

On the internet, Manuel found an advertisement for a business analyst at the Ministry of Health in Victoria, British Columbia. He applied and was interviewed, followed by an online exam. He also received two job offers in Toronto—from Citibank and Equifax, while Imelda was still interviewing. They were excited at the prospect of working in downtown Toronto. The Citibank offer was prestigious but a friend said “A civil service job is more stable even if it does not pay as much as Bay Street. The ministry work will allow you time to go to school at night to upgrade your skills.” Manuel called Victoria and found himself talking to the hiring manager. The ministry made a job offer and he decided to go for it.

Manuel flew to Victoria on July 5; Imelda followed 2 weeks later. She also applied to several ministries and was hired by the Ministry of Finance as their new debt payments manager. In less than a year, they were settled firmly in Canada. Manuel explained “We owe it all to our Lord, we prayed every day just like we used to in the Philippines, where we were members of Couples for Christ.”

Imelda says her job is basically the same as the one she had at ADB except for the title. “I am so fortunate to have matched the skills and work experience required by the position. My previous work experience in ADB’s Bonds and Derivatives Management Unit made a positive impact on my application. Without my ADB background, I doubt I would have been number one in their ranking for this job. I found the interview and written exam much like a review of my previous work assignments in ADB. Did they know ADB? Yes! Unlike many bankers in Toronto who thought ADB was a commercial bank, the Finance Ministry was aware that ADB is an international organization like the World Bank and an active bond issuer in the global capital markets.”

Speaking of her new life in Canada, Imelda says: “We’re enjoying our first spring here in Victoria and it’s absolutely indescribable to see the beauty of this place with streets all lined with cherry blossoms. We’ve already made a lot of friends, and found that Couples for Christ is alive and well in Victoria with many Filipino members. We are busy with CFC activities and Manuel plays guitar in the music ministry... I joined a local choir too and we’re having three concerts in June. To keep ourselves fit, we are attending a running class and we’re joining a 10K run next week. We’re into our first year in Canada and we’re starting to savor our new life here. Victoria has also provided us the life we longed for—simple, laid back, and a very balanced work life.

Dr Hsieh Memorial

Heh-Song Wang (ADB 1971–1995)



On July 9–10, in Taipei, China, the Chung-Hua Institute for Economic Research organized a seminar in memory of Dr Sam-Chung Hsieh (former Director of ADB’s Agricultural and Rural Department). Dr Hsieh was ADB’s first “director of projects” (when there was only one Projects Department and one Country Department), a position he held until his retirement in 1981

The seminar’s main theme was the Impact of the Current Financial Crisis on the East Asian Economy. Conference speakers came from the People’s Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; the Republic of Korea; Singapore; Taipei, China; and the United States. The conference had 385 participants, including Wen-Ning Hsieh and Wendy Hsieh (son and daughter of Dr Sam-Chung Hsieh), Hai-Sheng Ko (former Senior Project Engineer), and Heh-Song and Selma Wang.



Albertine Santi (ADB 1970–1997) writes that her three children are the highlights of her life, and notes that her daughter Jenny is head of philanthropy services for Southeast Asia in a large Swiss bank, and a volunteer lecturer for Aidha, an organization that educates women migrant workers.

L–Yoga Revisited

Elvie Punzalan Estavillo (ADB 1969–1973)



Silanganan Elementary School in Caloocan City, with a student population of 4,217, had only three dilapidated restrooms until the Laughter Yoga (L–Yoga) Club of the Philippines provided it with 11 new ones.

The project was conceived in response to an ANC channel feature on public schools with few, dirty bathrooms to serve several thousand students. To cope with the situation, some students said they suppress nature’s call till they reach home. This depressing scene haunted me, and I resolved to help alleviate it.

As a strong advocate of empowering our youth, our country’s hope, I felt that providing clean restrooms was a must: healthy bodies, healthy minds! So to make the project a reality I committed funds from the L–Yoga Club income and personal funds, and a donation from Miguel Go Belmonte, the Philippine Star’s president.

During the turnover rites, about 1,000 students plus teachers, the principal, and parents warmly welcomed us with placards expressing their gratitude. One student’s placard read “Thank you very much, we will not have UTI anymore.” Seeing their eyes glow and hearing their voices say “thank you” in unison was a humbling experience. It was indeed very much worth the time and effort to make the project a reality.

Education is the most effective instrument for a people’s personal transformation. As Baron Henry Peter Brougham wrote: “Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive, easy to govern, but difficult to enslave.” Education is the best solution to our long uphill struggle for unity and progress and, as our elders have often said, education is the best legacy they can bequeath to their children; it cannot be stolen and taken away and is the best weapon in combating poverty and injustice.

The mission of L–Yoga Club Philippines works in two ways: it helps participants lead healthier and happier lives and is an instrument in helping provide public schools with many clean restrooms. Let’s laugh!

New Network: ADB PS in DC IFIs

Clay Wescott (ADB 1998–2006)

A group of former ADB professional staff members now working at the Inter-American Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank have been getting together periodically. These events have been organized by Juri Oka and Erik Bloom, with advice and support of others. The group met first in February for lunch at the World Bank. The second gathering took place in July, when about 30 members of the group met at the home of Clay and Alison Wescott after work for food; drinks; and, for Erik and his kids, a swim. ADB’s North American Regional Office (NARO) Resident Representative Thelma Diaz also attended the July event. The gatherings provide great opportunities to swap stories about days at ADB, compare notes about our current work experiences, and catch up with each other. More than 40 former ADB professional staff members (and the number is growing) are now working at international financial institutions based in Washington DC. Our group welcomes new members!

Lovely Jewel

Karen Lane, Department of External Relations
(Excerpted from *Faces*, June 2009, Staff Community Fund, an article intended “to put faces on those you support through the Staff Community Fund”)

On 17 April 2009, 15-year-old Lovely Jewel Pimentel addressed the Annual Staff Community Fund (SCF) Assembly, her head just appearing above the podium. With poise and confidence unusual for youngsters from her background, “Love” thanked the SCF for making it possible for her to finish another year of school and said:

“At first, there was no assurance that I can have an education because of our dire need of enough money to finance such activity. But with God’s mercy and the assistance of charitable people I was able to study.”

Love, who is entering Grade 6 with good marks, is one of 10 students at St. Hannibal Multi-Level School in Parañaque, Metro Manila, to receive a scholarship from the SCF.

The scholarships were awarded to children unable to attend mainstream public schools because of extreme



Show '99—Happy Memories

John Cole (ADB 1983–2004)

Manny Perlas (ADB 1979–2007), Richard Vokes, and I have long been involved in making music. In 1998, we proposed that a staff concert be held to raise money for the newly established Staff Community Fund (SCF). We knew that in the Philippines music is more a part of local culture than perhaps anywhere in the world, and the many successful performances by the ADB Chorale and the Dance Guild told us that ADB had a deep pool of talent. We knew, too, that concerts are a great way to raise funds for good causes, and that we would be able to count on the ADB family to make it happen.

The SCF, though very interested, was only just getting started. By 1999, however it was eager to sponsor a show to publicize its work and raise funds for its projects. Richard had been posted to Nepal, but Manny was available to lead the band, and Helen Veloso-Williamson (ADB 1969–2003), and Vhee Martin came forward to organize and coach the singers. I was privileged to be the producer of the concert.

The rest, as they say, is history. Show '99 was a huge success, some 750 staff having a great evening together. I particularly remember knockout performances from Kan Terada (ADB 1997–2001), Eiichi Sasaki, Honeylet Florendo, Victor You, Boyet Magno, Olive Rillo, Chrissie Torres, Clay Wescott (ADB 1998–2006), Cynthia O'Sullivan, Dolly Sotelo, Steve Groff (ADB 1997–2007), Marimil Francisco, Minoru Kuriki (ADB 1996–1999), Mary Anne Magtalas, and the Kaibigan choir, but there were many other memorable moments.

poverty or lack of documentation, or because they were too old for their grade levels. Lack of finances was Love's problem. Her father's alcoholism led to spouse abuse and a dire lack of funds for the family's basic needs, forcing her brothers to work as steel scavengers to supplement the family income and keeping Love from an education.

The SCF funds should see her through her final year of elementary school to graduation in April 2010.

In addition to the 10 scholarships, which provide for books, school supplies, and uniforms, SCF funding helps St. Hannibal provide all 80 elementary students with multivitamins, annual health exams, and dental hygiene supplies.

Among the 10 SCF scholars, 9 passed their year-end tests and will move up to the next grade level, 1 ranked second in the school for academic excellence, and Love won a leadership award. SCF has been assisting St Hannibal since 2004.

To help children such as Love and support other SCF projects, make a contribution through SCF treasurer Christine Infantado (cinfantado@adb.org). If you are based in Manila and would like to assist by working with the SCF, e-mail Emile Gozali (egozali@adb.org).



There was no question that Show 2000 would follow Show '99. The same team organized the event. The cafeteria was packed to the rafters, and it was another delightful, entertaining, and satisfying night for us all.

Then came Show 2001. Manny had moved to Uzbekistan, and Ed Campos, took over as musical director. It was another memorable evening with the largest crowd ever. It was made special by a surprise performance by President Tadao Chino (ADB 1999–2005).

Since then, the SCF concert has become a regular and much anticipated part of the ADB calendar. It raises a lot of money and provides an excellent platform for bringing the SCF's work to the attention of ADB staff and friends.

Before I retired in 2004 I produced five of the shows. It was a great pleasure for me and hugely satisfying to work with so many talented colleagues who were prepared to make an extra curricular effort for something they believed in.

Good performances are of course the product of both talent and practice. Everyone involved in these concerts works hard to ensure that they give their best. But it takes an appreciative and lively audience to get the most out of a performer. ADB's audiences are terrific.

This year sees the tenth show. It will, I'm sure, bring joy to all involved, all who watch it, and ultimately to many in the local community who need the help that the SCF can provide.

About SCF

Hans-Juergen Springer

The Staff Community Fund (SCF) is an initiative of the employees of ADB. Its story goes back to 1997, when a group of staff decided to establish a mechanism to help the needy in Metro Manila, where most ADB staff work and live. With ADB's blessing, the SCF was set up in November of that year. It has come a long way since then.

The first SCF Show was staged in July 1999 to serve as the focus of the SCF's annual fundraising campaign and to showcase ADB's talented staff. Since then, the SCF Show has become an annual event in September or October each year. ADB President Kuroda has attended and addressed the SCF Shows in recent years, reflecting his strong personal support for the event.

In total, the SCF has raised and distributed more than PHP41 million to help 80 charitable organizations in the Metro Manila area assist the poor and disadvantaged in the community (the disabled, abandoned children, sexually abused youth, and those living in abject poverty). The SCF has touched the lives of over 15,000 beneficiaries, more than 75% of whom are children and youth. The SCF has provided shelter, food and nutrition, education, and medical services. Its work has depended to date entirely on staff contributions,

but contributions from former ADB staff are most welcome. If you would like to make a contribution, you may contact AFE-ADB for further information. You can contribute on a monthly basis through automatic bank transfers or make a one-time donation. With the support of the community of present and former ADB staff we hope to further build on what is a real success story.

How is the SCF run? It is governed by a steering committee currently chaired by Clare Wee of the Office of the Auditor General. The other committee members are Richard Edwards (vice chair, fundraising), Lourdes Apagalang (vice chair, operations), Ma. Antoniette Bihis (secretary), Christine Infantado (treasurer), Arlene Pecson (alternate treasurer), and Susan Onday (administrative assistant).

The SCF steering committee meets once a month to consider funding proposals from charitable organizations in Metro Manila. Requests that meet the selection criteria outlined in the SCF by-laws are identified and discussed. Site visits are scheduled to further assess the proposals. During a site visit, committee members review the activities of the beneficiary organizations and clarify their proposals. Potential beneficiary organizations can reformulate their proposals based on the discussions during the visit. At the following monthly meeting, the steering committee reviews information collected during the site visits and considers funding the proposals.

Participation of staff, former staff, and long-term consultants is very much encouraged and needed in the SCF's activities. You may contact Susan at 632-5681 or any committee member to contribute your valuable time and talents.

Senior Appointments in ADB

AFE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

Sungsup Ra, appointed Director, PAHQ, effective 20 March 2009.

Pil-Bae Song, appointed Director, Energy and Natural Resources Division, CWEN, effective 20 March 2009.

Noritaka Akamatsu, appointed Senior Advisor, OREI, effective 25 March 2009.

Ajay Sagar, appointed Assistant Secretary, effective 6 April 2009.

Jo Yamagata, appointed Deputy Director General, PSOD, effective 13 April 2009.

James Patrick Lynch, appointed Director, SETU, effective 24 April 2009.

Bartlet W. Edes, appointed Director, RSGS, effective 5 May 2009.

Jouko Sarvi, appointed Practice Leader (Education), RSDD, effective 5 May 2009.

Philippe M. Leclercq, appointed Director in the Operations Coordination Division, PSOD, effective 14 May 2009.

Rita Nangia, appointed Senior Advisor, OIST, effective 22 May 2009.

Richard S.M. Bolt, appointed Advisor, Office of the Director General, SEOD, effective 25 May 2009.

Peter Fedon, appointed Senior Advisor, Office of the Director General, EAOD, effective 25 May 2009.

Tomoyuki Kimura, appointed Advisor, Office of the Director General, BPOD, effective 1 June 2009.

Jong-Wha Lee, appointed Chief Economist, ERD, concurrent with his appointment as Head, OREI, effective 8 June 2009.

Srinivasa Madhur, appointed Senior Director, OREI, effective 8 June 2009.

Ann Quon, appointed Principal Director, DER, effective 8 June 2009.

Hyong-Jong Yu, appointed Deputy Director General, BPMSD, effective 10 June 2009.

Phillip Ash, appointed Advisor (Human Resources), Office of the Director General, BPMSD, effective 11 June 2009.

Arjun Goswami, appointed Advisor and Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration Group, Office of the Director General, SERD, effective 22 June 2009.

Hans Carlsson, appointed Lead Professional (Project Performance Management), SAOD, effective 1 July 2009.

Toong San Chan, appointed Lead Professional (IT Portfolio Management), OIST, effective 1 July 2009.

Yinguo Huang, appointed Lead Professional (Consulting Services), COS2, effective 1 July 2009.

Wouter Lincklaen Arriens, appointed Lead Professional (Water Resources Management), RSID, effective 1 July 2009.

Michael Lindfield, appointed Lead Professional (Urban Development), RSID, effective 1 July 2009.

Robert Y. Siy, Jr., appointed Director, Human Resources Division, BPMSD, effective 22 July 2009.

Hong Wei, appointed Director, Operations Planning and Coordination Division, SPD, effective 27 August 2009.

Jon Lindborg, appointed Advisor (Public-Private Partnership), SARD, effective 31 August 2009.

Christopher Maccormac, appointed Resident Director General, NARO, effective 16 September 2009.

Ma. Carmela Locsin, appointed Deputy Director General, SARD, effective 16 September 2009.

Sean O'Sullivan, appointed Deputy Director General, SPD, effective 16 September 2009.

Werner Liepach, appointed Deputy Director General, CWRD, effective 16 September 2009.

Philip Daltrop, appointed Deputy General Counsel, effective 1 October 2009.

Kazuhiko Higuchi, appointed Country Director, URM, effective upon assumption of office.

Putu Kamayana, appointed Country Director, CARM, effective upon assumption of office.

Obituaries

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the death of the following former ADB staff members. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences to their families.

Florencio Boñe, Jr., former Administrative Officer in OAS, passed away on 3 May at the age of 84. Condolences may be sent to his grandson Paolo Boñe at 25 Ragang Street, Brgy. Manresa, Quezon City, Philippines.

M.S. Perera, former Senior Rural Institutions Specialist in the former Agriculture and Rural Development Department, passed away on 30 May at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent to his spouse Amita Perera at 1/3 Cliff Road, Epping, NSW 2121, Australia.

Rufina Ocampo, former Senior Clerk (Records) in OGC, passed away on 14 June at the age of 69. Condolences may be sent to her nephew Israel Radames Penson at radamespenon@yahoo.com.

Eric Thorn, former Executive Director for Australia; Cambodia; Hong Kong, China; Kiribati; Federated States of Micronesia; Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu, passed away on 18 June. Condolences may be sent to his spouse Ann Forsythe Thorn at Chateau Royale, Beach House 1, Memorial Avenue, Cotton Tree, Maroochydore 4558, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Zafar Shah Khan, former Senior Development Bank Specialist, Projects Department, passed away on 7 July at the age of 69. Condolences may be sent to his spouse Feroze Khan at 1122 Basil Road, McLean, VA 22101, United States of America.

Felicitas Diaz, former Executive Assistant in the former Infrastructure, Energy and Financial Sectors Department (East), passed away on 27 July at the age of 71. Condolences may be sent to her spouse Alberto Diaz at 42 Madrid Street, BF Homes III (BFKHA), Sucat, Parañaque City, Philippines.

M. Ikramullah Khan (see page 3).

Notes of Thanks

Kimimasa Tarumizu, my husband, passed away on 21 February 2009. The sudden demise was a shock to me and my family members as well as to his friends. Since then I have received a great number of letters of sympathy from my ADB friends, each one of which I have read with heartfelt appreciation. All the letters did give me and my family members great encouragement at the time of distress. Each of them reminded me of our friendly association in Manila and elsewhere.

I regret, however, I can not write to each of you because of the number and the problem of my hand. I will continue to remember all of you and please let me know if you have a chance to travel to this way. Thank you very much.

Mieko Tarumizu

The past 2 weeks have been marked by a tragic loss for our family but also an outpouring of support and prayers from friends. At a time like this, kind words and warmth from all of you have been a comforting reminder of the strength of character, charm, and the many achievements of our beloved father.

Papa loved this organization and was steadfast in his commitment to making it possible for former employees to feel a part of it. The last 22 years have been a testament to his initiative and dedication to the interests of all retirees of ADB.

For our family, it has meant time spent away from us and the grandchildren as he worked diligently in spite of his declining health. We are so proud of him and hope that his personal investment will touch many lives and in this way continue his legacy even in death.

Our lives have changed forever, and it is our sincere hope that the fruits of his labor will continue to flourish by providing a platform for all former employees of ADB.

Our mother joins us in extending our profound gratitude for your support and concern.

Please pray for his soul to rest in eternal peace.

Jaffer Ikram Khan

Nasir Ikram Khan

Nasreen Ikram Hussain

Zainab Ikram Siddiq

The *AFE-ADB News* is published twice annually under the auspices of the AFE Editorial Board.

The views expressed in the articles are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AFE-ADB, its officers, or its Editorial Board; or of ADB or its Board of Governors. AFE-ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of information or data presented or accept any responsibility for any consequences of their use.

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- (1) Articles and images may be accepted for inclusion if, in the opinion of the AFE-ADB Editorial Board, they are germane to AFE-ADB activities and membership, are of interest to a significant portion of the membership, and do not contain material that promotes a political or religious stance or is potentially inflammatory or offensive to the readership.
- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Editorial Board deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 300 dpi).
- (3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE-ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- (4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

No articles or images may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the publisher and author(s) and/or photographer(s).

Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250-500 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve the *AFE-ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine Aquino, AFE-ADB's able assistant, provided invaluable help, including gathering materials, typesetting and layout. Marilou Magalued, Andrea Carlos and Cesar Juan prepared the magazine for mailing. AFE-ADB sincerely appreciates ADB's assistance with publishing the magazine, especially Carolyn Dedolph Cabrera, Vic Angeles, Keech Hidalgo, and Ronnie Elefaño at the publications unit and Alexander Tarnoff, Anna Juico, Vic Lo, Gregg Garcia, and Judy Yñiguez and the printing unit.

Announcements

Chapter Events

The **Australian chapter** is having its annual reunion on 11, 12 and 13 October 2009 at Eagle Heights Mountain Resort, Eagle Heights, Queensland. The program includes a welcoming dinner on 11th, the business meeting on 12th, and the Peter Pattison Golf Tournament and a formal dinner on 13th. All AFE-ADB members are welcome to attend. Please contact Peter Carroll at <pet@bigpond.net.au> or Pat Talib at <abbastalib@hotmail.com>

The **New York-New Jersey chapter** will host its Year-End Get-Together Party on Saturday, 24 October 2009, 7-12 midnight. Venue to be announced in due course. All AFE members are invited to attend. Please contact Nannette Guinto Amorado, Chairperson for 2009, at <Nannette.Amorado@undp.org>

The **Philippine chapter** will host its Annual Get-Together Party on Thursday, 26 November 2009, 4 pm onwards, to be held at the ADB Executive Dining Room. All AFE members are invited to attend. Please contact Gam de Armas, Country Coordinator, at <gamdearmas@yahoo.com>

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Please send in articles, photos, updates, or comments for publication in our next newsletter.

Annual Association Dues

Members who have not yet settled their annual Association dues are requested to do so.

Keep your address updated with AFE-ADB

Please keep us informed about any change in your address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address. We don't want to lose touch with you. Also, if you know of any member whose address and other contact details are not listed, or are incomplete or wrong, please let us know.

AFE-ADB contact details

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